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New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Somdah
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis
	Viet Nam	Mr. Hoang Chi Trung

Agenda

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2009/359)

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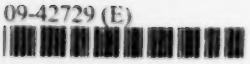

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2009/359)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Central African Republic and Chad, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Poukré-Kono (Central African Republic) and Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) took seats at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo, Special Representative and head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Angelo to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/359, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. Angelo: Let me thank the Security Council for the opportunity to present the report (S/2009/359) of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), which is dated 14 July 2009. It covers major political, security and humanitarian developments since the last report (S/2009/199), of 14 April 2009. The report also includes an annex containing a strategic work plan towards the fulfilment of the benchmarks endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1861 (2009). I would like to take this opportunity to give the Council an update on the latest key developments. I shall turn first to the political situation in Chad.

In the framework of the agreement of 13 August 2007, the Government and the democratic opposition reached consensus, on 28 May, on the laws regulating the status of the opposition and the political parties' charter. They also agreed on the electoral code and the Commission electorale nationale indépendante. These agreements allowed for serious progress to made in the internal political process. Last week, the members and Chairman of the electoral commission were sworn in.

In the same vein, the Government launched a general population census on 20 May, paving the way for voter registration and constituency delimitation ahead of national elections. Support from the international community for the census also included some logistical assistance from MINURCAT. The results are due to be released shortly.

With regard to the security situation, on 4 May Chadian armed opposition groups, under the coalition of Union des forces de la résistance, launched an attack on Chadian territory from the Sudan. The attack was repelled by the Armée Nationale Tchadienne through air strikes and a direct confrontation on 7 May close to Am Dam, forcing the rebels to retreat. As a security measure, MINURCAT relocated a number of aid workers from Koukou Angarana to Goz Beida during the armed conflict and significantly increased patrolling in all sectors. In addition, MINURCAT called on all parties to respect the humanitarian space and international humanitarian law.

As to Chad-Sudan relations, notwithstanding the Doha agreement signed on 3 May by the Governments of Chad and the Sudan under the aegis of Qatar, the

latest clashes that occurred in May once again strained relations between the two countries. Despite the statements of both countries on 24 and 25 May expressing support for the Qatar efforts to end the current situation, new tensions erupted recently. The relationship between Chad and the Sudan has a critical impact on the situation on both sides of the border. There is an urgent need to de-escalate the situation and resume diplomatic initiatives.

In this context, we are liaising closely with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and are in contact with the Dakar process member States to try to identify the confidence-building measures that are required for the next meeting of the Contact Group, to take place in the near future.

The rainy season is providing a window of opportunity for renewed political engagement between Chad and the Sudan. The parties should use this opportunity to revive the process, including the implementation of the border verification mechanism.

With regard to the Central African Republic, the situation in the Vakaga region in the north-eastern part of the country has been extremely insecure over the past three months and continues to be of serious concern, as armed groups and bandits continue to operate in the area. On 6 and 21 June, armed men attacked the town of Birao. At least 27 people were killed in the clashes and at least 60 per cent of the houses in that town were burned to the ground. As of today, large segments of the population have not returned to Birao.

MINURCAT, in close liaison with the United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), has maintained continuous contacts with the Government of the Central African Republic with a view to convincing the national authorities to combine the military presence of MINURCAT with the strengthened presence of State officials and with the initiation of mediation efforts. MINURCAT is at present fully deployed in the mandated area of operations in the Central African Republic, but the gravity of the situation goes beyond our capacity to respond to all the security needs in the area. On 1 July, the Government sent a mediation delegation headed by the Minister for Territorial Administration. The Minister was accompanied by a BONUCA political officer and received logistical and security support from MINURCAT. The initial mediation efforts were successful but need to be sustained.

The Vakaga region is still in a precarious situation. Humanitarian assistance is not being delivered at this stage for reasons of insecurity. The region requires the sustained attention of the Government of the Central African Republic and of the international community. This includes the areas of Sam Oundja and Sikikede, which for the moment are effectively without a security presence. They are home to refugee and displaced populations.

MINURCAT also worked closely with the Government of the Central African Republic and the United Nations country team in Bangui to establish a humanitarian corridor to assist 16,600 refugees from the Central African Republic who are currently in southern Chad. It was impossible for us to reach them from the Chadian side due to the rains. With the cooperation of the Government of the Central African Republic, we were able to open a humanitarian corridor and provide the necessary assistance to the refugees.

As to the humanitarian situation, during the period under review MINURCAT established a well-structured dialogue with the humanitarian community. This dialogue, which is facilitated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, takes place on a weekly basis. It has led to a better understanding of each side's roles and concerns.

Following the May clashes, a significant rise in crime, banditry and insecurity took place, reducing once more the humanitarian space in some areas of eastern Chad. As a temporary measure, MINURCAT increased the number of escorts to ensure the continuation of humanitarian operations. Humanitarian staff has been included in the security and evacuation plans and training has taken place at the local level to ensure a coordinated response, if necessary.

There has been an increase in the number of small arms and unexploded ordnance. Our mine action unit has, in coordination with Chad's Centre nationale de déminage and a number of non-governmental organizations, undertaken an emergency clearance of major roads, as well as areas of operation in the immediate vicinity of previous and recent battle areas. Having completed clearance of major axes, the mine action unit will now deploy demining teams to priority

areas of operation, in particular those that have been identified as areas of potential return for displaced people.

With regard to the deployment of military force, it now stands at 46 per cent of its mandated strength. The slow deployment of the force has limited the ability of MINURCAT to effectively execute the military concept of operations and provide the required safe and secure environment for humanitarians, refugees, displaced people and vulnerable populations, including in the returnee areas. As a temporary measure, the force will offer escorts to the humanitarian community until such time as there is enough capacity to make patrolling the preferred method of intervention.

In the meantime, the force implemented Operation Pioneer from 13 to 17 July, significantly increasing its presence in the field through foot patrols and troops in remote villages of potential return of displaced people. The force also increased patrolling in the main axes and made extensive use of rotary assets to reach areas otherwise inaccessible during the rainy season. These preventive deployments projected the force in expeditionary operations. The exercise was conducted successfully, and I can assure the Council that it will be repeated with increasing frequency as the force receives more troops.

There is still a lack of rotary assets with enhanced night-flight capability, and as of today we have only four out of the planned 18 military helicopters. Bangladesh will deploy three utility helicopters later in the year, but we have so far received no pledges for the remaining helicopters. Should this unacceptable situation continue to prevail, it will be necessary to explore the possibility of acquiring such capabilities commercially. We would like to ask those already deployed in the force to strengthen their presence and prolong their deployment.

I wish to say some encouraging words about the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS). Since October 2008, DIS has conducted approximately 3,000 security escorts and arrested more than 90 individuals suspected of involvement in various crimes against the humanitarian community, as well as 56 individuals accused of armed robbery and five of rape. These rapes took place around refugee camps.

The rate of recuperation of hijacked vehicles now stands at 60 per cent compared to 10 per cent before the deployment of the Détachement intégré de sécurité. Currently, DIS is carrying out an average of about 85 escorts and 240 patrols per week. These are excellent indicators of performance and motivation.

The May events show that DIS, as a national police force, risks becoming a target of the armed opposition groups. The Détachement intégré de sécurité experienced a number of direct attacks during and after the incursions, with several casualties as a result. MINURCAT and the Government are in full agreement that DIS is a police force without a military mandate, and that its primary scope is to protect and secure displaced people, refugees, humanitarians and the local population.

In the meantime, the United Nations police will intensify close in-service training of DIS elements, including the two-month training and certification of 40 judicial police officers. We will also continue to promote close cooperation between DIS and our judiciary section. The logistical support of the Mission to DIS remains a serious weakness that we are trying to address with a great sense of urgency.

The DIS concept can easily be part of a reform of the security sector in Chad. However, DIS is funded on a voluntary basis by Member States, and the Trust Fund is rapidly running out of money. By the end of October, the Fund will be penniless. As Council members can understand, the situation is very serious and I would plead for their continued support for this central element of our Mission. The budget to keep DIS operating for another year currently stands at around $17 million.

I would like to make a brief comment about justice and prisons. As Council members know, we have an important justice support programme in the section. We have trained civil servants to be deployed as justices of the peace and prosecutors in eastern Chad in the absence of magistrates. During the reporting period, we worked very closely with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to facilitate the proceedings of mobile criminal courts in several locations in eastern Chad. However, the security of judicial authorities remains a constraint to the deployment of the judges.

We have also provided on-the-job training for prison staff in eastern Chad. We collaborate very closely with the Chadian prison authorities and have

drafted a comprehensive set of laws, policies and procedures to assist the Government of Chad in the establishment of a professional prison system. These measures are now awaiting the approval of Parliament. Nevertheless, the few existing prisons in eastern Chad are in a dilapidated state and in urgent need of rehabilitation.

With regard to human rights, the Mission continues to follow up on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005), 1820 (2008) and 1325 (2000). Eighty-four children were among the rebel combatants captured during the fighting in early May. These 84 children were handed over to UNICEF for demobilization and reinsertion. We commend the Government for this initiative. However, this event confirms that the mobilization of child soldiers remains a serious problem in Chad and a key priority for our work.

There have also been problems with arbitrary and prolonged detention of men, women and minors as well as gender-based violence, forced marriages and domestic violence. As part of a potentially wider security sector reform, we need to prepare a comprehensive plan for arms collection.

With respect to political and civil affairs, I would like to say very briefly that, during the past few months, MINURCAT, together with local traditional and administrative authorities, and with the support of the European Union and the European Commission, has initiated an intercommunity dialogue programme, which is based on strengthening existing traditional conflict resolution mechanisms through the establishment of local reconciliation commissions between communities, chaired by traditional and administrative authorities alike.

More particularly, on 30 June, with our facilitation and with the assistance of local authorities, the tribal leaders of the Massalit and Zaghawa groups agreed to address the issues hindering the return of the Massalit to their villages of origin. This displaced ethnic group has now started to return in time for the planting season, giving hope for a long-term resolution of the conflict. In a very recent similar effort on 15 July, we managed to bring together two communities that had been in a process of serious conflict, and they have agreed to live peacefully and put a stop to their long-lasting feud. This turn of events will enable more than 1,000 refugees that have crossed the border and are currently in the Sudan to return to Chad in the next few days or couple of weeks.

These positive developments give hope for building peace at the grass roots level. They are also conducive to the return of displaced persons, which, as Council members know, is the primary benchmark of our strategy.

I would next like to say one or two words on the strategic workplan. As outlined in my introduction, we have developed a strategic workplan including the main benchmarks for the Mission, indicators of progress, key activities and some of the necessary conditions which need to be in place. The question of the return of a critical mass of internally displaced persons is of particular interest, as this benchmark requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach to fight impunity in eastern Chad, improve security and strengthen the rule of law and civil administration. All these aspects require the support of the international community and good coordination with national authorities.

Speaking of the authorities, during the reporting period, we have continued our frequent contacts with the Government of the Central African Republic concerning the situation in our area of operations. The Government of Central African Republic signed on 13 June 2009 an amendment to the status of mission agreement. The relationship with Chad also remains very constructive. However, we have not yet been able to complete the discussions with the Government on the agreement. It is a matter of great urgency and utmost importance to the Mission, and we hope to resolve some of the issues relating to taxation and the status of mission agreement and come to agreement on this matter shortly.

We have also maintained a very close liaison with BONUCA and UNAMID. To address issues of mutual concern, we have worked closely with the United Nations country team in the Central African Republic and arranged bilateral and trilateral meetings between the United Nations country teams in Chad, the Central African Republic and Cameroon. We also arranged an inter-mission meeting between MINURCAT, UNAMID, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and BONUCA to improve coordination between these missions and look for synergies.

To maximize efforts and avoid duplication, the Mission and the United Nations country team in

N'Djamena have also started preparing an integrated strategic framework for the United Nations system in Chad outlining peacebuilding activities in the country. The framework should be finalized by October 2009 and should be considered an example of integration in a situation where we do not have an integrated mission.

The President: I thank Mr. Angelo for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Lacroix (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo, for his very detailed and comprehensive briefing. The situation in Chad and the Central African Republic continues to pose many challenges for the Security Council and for the United Nations as a whole. I should like to comment briefly on some of them.

First, it is important to complete the deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and to ensure the proper functioning of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS). Thus far, the transition from the European Union-led military force to MINURCAT has been proceeding fairly smoothly, thanks in particular to the progressive nature of the withdrawal of the European contingents, the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the efforts on the ground to ensure good coordination among all the parties. However, as Mr. Angelo said, it is essential that MINURCAT's deployment accelerate and be completed. To that end, we call on all States to confirm their commitments or undertake new ones.

For its part, France has announced that it will maintain a logistics battalion in addition to its support detachment for the Togolese battalion in Birao and the more general support provided through Operation Epervier. It is also essential that the United Nations respect the commitments undertaken with Chad concerning the time frame for rebuilding airport infrastructure, as well as the commitments undertaken with the European Union.

With regard to the Détachement intégré de sécurité, we are pleased that its full deployment has been possible, that it is providing security in 12 refugee camps and in certain towns in eastern Chad and that it has been providing escorts for many humanitarian convoys — according to the report of the Secretary-General before us (S/2009/359), 2,600 between October 2008 and May 2009. However, we are concerned by certain disciplinary problems regarding the conduct of several DIS personnel, about which we should be vigilant.

In order to ensure the best possible functioning of the DIS, it is also important that there be the best possible coordination and cooperation between it and MINURCAT and, in particular, that MINURCAT provide the necessary logistical support to the DIS. Good synergy between those two components is essential not only so that the DIS can carry out its mission, but also for the credibility of the United Nations as a whole, in particular in the eyes of the Chadian authorities.

The second challenge on which I would like to briefly comment is the protection of populations and humanitarian workers in a security context that remains very uncertain. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the security environment in Chad and the Central African Republic remains tense.

First, the tension characterizing the relations between Chad and the Sudan is very worrisome. We call on both countries to honour their commitments and to refrain from any provocation and any action that could lead to an escalation. In particular, all violations of territorial space and all support for rebel groups must cease.

Moreover, greater efforts must be made to combat banditry in Chad and the Central African Republic. Attacks against humanitarian personnel remain very numerous. The figures in the Secretary-General's report on this are very worrying. I reiterate that 150 attacks have been reported in five months, and I would also recall that members of the DIS are also being attacked, as shown by the deaths of three of them, in April, May and June respectively.

In the Central African Republic, the increase in ethnic tension has also led to increased insecurity. We welcome the way in which MINURCAT is carrying out its mandate, and in particular its assistance to humanitarian workers during the 6 June and 21 June attacks. We encourage MINURCAT, in collaboration with the Chadian authorities, to continue its activities to end human rights violations and, in particular, to end the recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups, as well as sexual violence.

Finally, the third challenge: There is a need to continue to encourage the various parties to participate in the political process in good faith. First and foremost, it is essential that Chad and the Sudan rejoin the Dakar process and resolve their problems as neighbours.

With respect to the internal political process in Chad, we welcome the progress made in implementing the 13 August 2007 agreement, in particular thanks to the finalization of the electoral code, the establishment of a National Independent Electoral Commission and the adoption of a law on the status of the opposition and on political parties. The launch of the census is an essential step in preparing for elections. It is a noteworthy development, and we hope that this positive momentum will continue.

In the Central African Republic also, it is essential that the peace process continue. In particular, I should like to mention the importance of continuing the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

In conclusion, I should like once again to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and to pay tribute to his work and that of his team and to welcome the strategic work plan set out in the Secretary-General's report, which we regard as particularly suited to the objectives and the situation.

Mr. Urbina (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to begin by thanking Mr. Angelo for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (S/2009/359).

Costa Rica welcomes the preparation of the strategic work plan for the Mission, which will be a valuable tool for measuring its progress. We believe that the inclusion of benchmarks is valuable, as is the description of activities planned to achieve them. In particular, we support the decision to include a new benchmark on improved peace and security in the subregion in general. As we have stated previously, the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons in eastern Chad — a basic objective of MINURCAT's deployment — can be achieved only if the root causes of conflict are addressed within each of the countries and in the subregion as a whole. This new peace and security benchmark responds to that need and is a significant measure that will help us better understand that MINURCAT's objectives depend on a solution to the internal conflict in Chad and on improved relations between that country and the Sudan.

Costa Rica agrees with the Secretary-General that, if the MINURCAT benchmarks are to be met, in addition to appropriate performance, there is a need for other concrete actions by the Government of Chad, the armed opposition groups, regional actors and the international community. The Government of Chad has the responsibility to redouble its efforts to implement the Sirte Agreement and to promote a political process that is comprehensive and inclusive of all parties. As the Secretary-General noted in paragraph 62 of his previous report on MINURCAT (S/2009/199), for any reconciliation process to be viable, it is important that all opposition, political and armed, be associated and included.

In that connection, we also call on all parties to the internal conflict in Chad to commit themselves to the process of dialogue and national reconciliation within the framework of the Sirte Agreement and the 13 August 2007 agreement. We recognize the progress made in the past few months in implementing the 13 August agreement and in preparing for elections.

We also welcome the treaty signed between three rebel groups and the Government of Chad a few days ago in Tripoli, whereby that coalition of armed groups renounced armed struggle and committed themselves to dialogue, setting an example to be imitated by other armed groups.

We urge the Government of Chad to consider every possibility for reconciliation, including accepting the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate dialogue. We join in the appeal issued by the Secretary-General to regional actors and members of the Council with influence over the parties, urging them to commit themselves to a peaceful settlement of their differences.

On the regional level, we once again echo the call addressed to the Governments of Chad and the Sudan to refrain from their usual political and military provocations. It is high time for them to cease undermining the work of the international community, to end their support for rebel groups and to devote their energies to confidence-building and the normalization of their relations. We hope that the Dakar Contact Group will meet soon, and we support the efforts of the Government of Qatar to foster better relationships

between the two countries. However, it is important to stress that the ultimate responsibility lies with the Governments of those two countries, which are called upon to show the political will necessary to fulfil their commitments and agreements.

My country is very concerned about the humanitarian and human rights situation in Chad, including the prevalence of sexual violence, particularly that involving members of the Chadian armed forces. We are also troubled by the recruitment of children. We support the measures and initiatives taken by MINURCAT and other national and international partners to address the issue of the recruitment and use of children so as to improve the judicial system and raise awareness of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

We vigorously condemn the attacks on humanitarian personnel, and we believe that impunity for those committing these crimes must end.

We are grateful for the inclusion in the report of specific cases regarding the promotion of dialogue and reconciliation among local communities, which is a key part of the mandate. We encourage the Mission to continue these efforts and to suggest new ways of supporting and further bolstering the capacity of MINURCAT in this respect.

We are pleased that the deployment of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) has been completed, and we hope that the process of training and qualifying DIS agents will be reinforced by MINURCAT. We also support the establishment of the Office of Protection and Escorts to improve coordination between the humanitarian community, MINURCAT and the security forces.

Finally, we wish to express our concern regarding the deterioration of the security situation in the Central African Republic, particularly the increase in conflicts among ethnic groups. We support the actions of MINURCAT in its area of operations with a view to improving the security environment, and we hope that coordination with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic will be extended so as to deal with the resurgence of violence in north-eastern Central African Republic.

Mr. Somdah (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to thank the Special Representative, Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo, for his briefing on developments in the situation in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic.

The security and humanitarian situation in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic remains worrying due to the ongoing clashes between Government forces and armed groups. My delegation once again condemns the attack of 4 May 2009 by armed groups under the banner of the Union des forces de la résistance. We reiterate our appeal to all parties, especially armed movements, to renounce any military solution to the crisis and to respect their commitments, in particular the Sirte agreement of October 2007.

The lack of security continues to be a major source of concern and compromises humanitarian activities. We are pleased that the Chadian Government, supported by the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), has been able to effectively deploy the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) and thereby reinforce security in camps for refugees and internally displaced persons. We encourage the partners to continue to provide significant logistical support to DIS so that it can fulfil its mission.

One encouraging event was the signing on 25 July in Tripoli of a peace agreement between the Chadian Government and the Mouvement national, which provided for an end to hostilities and the reintegration of combatants from the Mouvement into the Chadian army and of its leaders into Government administration.

At the political level, we are encouraged by the progress achieved, in particular the consensus reached on draft laws concerning, respectively, the status of the opposition, the political parties' charter and the approval of decrees to implement laws on the electoral code and the National Independent Electoral Commission. We welcome the holding of the general census of the population, which is a further decisive step towards the organization and holding of general elections. The parties must maintain an ongoing dialogue and coordination to resolve any disagreements.

With respect to the Central African Republic, we are concerned about the deterioration of the security situation in the north-eastern part of the country due to the resurgence of acts of banditry, intertribal violence and attacks by armed groups, which has increased the number of refugees and limits the delivery of humanitarian aid. It is essential that all parties respect the decisions they reached following the inclusive

political dialogue of December 2008. We encourage them to continue to make progress towards genuine national reconciliation in order to enable the political process to move forward, with a view to holding legislative and presidential elections in 2010.

This Council should continue to give particular attention to the security and humanitarian situations in the Central African Republic, especially in the northern, north-western and north-central parts of the country.

With respect to the situation in the subregion, we remain convinced that resolving the crisis and putting an end to instability in Chad will require close and effective cooperation among States of the region. We continue to encourage Chad and the Sudan to improve their bilateral relations and to cooperate fully in order to put an end to the activities of illegal armed groups, in accordance with the commitments undertaken in the Dakar agreement and the Doha agreement of 3 May 2009. We urge them in particular to avoid any act that could fuel tensions between the two States.

With respect to the deployment of the military component of MINURCAT, we urge the international community to do its utmost to ensure the effective deployment of the military component of MINURCAT and to make it operational by giving it the logistical means necessary to carry out its mandate. My delegation takes due note of the strategic workpian of MINURCAT. We share the point of view expressed by the Secretary-General on the preliminary conditions for the withdrawal of the Mission, which will require the ongoing commitment of Governments in the region, a resolution of the potential factors of insecurity and instability along the border between Chad and the Sudan, and the support of the international community.

In conclusion, we invite the international community and the Council in particular, in the light of the ongoing high level of insecurity in Chad and the Central African Republic, to remain mobilized in order to provide significant assistance to the respective efforts by the Governments of these two countries.

Mr. Dolgov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We too would like to thank Mr. Angelo, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing and for introducing the report on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (S/2009/359).

Unfortunately, the security situation remains complex. Activities by rebel armed groups continue to destabilize the situation in eastern Chad. The situation in the north-eastern Central African Republic has become more complicated with an ongoing grave humanitarian crisis. Under those conditions, provision of external assistance and the continued leading role of the United Nations remain essential. We share the view of the Secretary-General that the Government of Chad bears the main responsibility for stabilization of the eastern part of the country.

We welcome the progress made by the Government of Chad in implementing the agreements with the political opposition. Stabilization in Chad and in the subregion as a whole will be impossible without improved relations between those countries and the Sudan. In that context, we are concerned about reports incursions by Chadian aircraft into Sudanese territory and air strikes in western Darfur on 16 July. We believe that both sides should show the political will to normalize their bilateral relations, which would be in the interest of the Sudanese and Chadian peoples and the subregion as a whole, especially since mechanisms and a basis for negotiations exist for that. Progress must continue towards implementing the Dakar agreement, and diplomatic efforts must be stepped up in order to resume the work of the Contact Group established under that agreement.

We commend the activities of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, in which Russia is actively participating. We welcome the conclusion of preparations, with the help of MINURCAT, and the deployment of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) in eastern Chad. In addition to providing needed logistical support and ongoing training to DIS, it is also important in our view to work to coordinate the activities of MINURCAT, DIS and the Chadian security forces.

We believe that the military components of the Mission will be fully staffed by the end of 2009. We also hope that the troop-contributing countries will provide the necessary air units for the Mission, because at present the Russian aviation unit bears the brunt of that burden. The Russian unit will of course continue to carry out those functions in accordance with the mandate.

With respect to the question of benchmarks for MINURCAT, they are an important element in

assessing the effectiveness of that United Nations operation. In our view, in the process of developing those benchmarks the Mission carried out the necessary consultations with all interested parties, in particular the Government of Chad.

Mr. Takasu (Japan): I too would like to thank Special Representative Victor Da Silva Angelo for his informative briefing.

On this occasion, I would like to pay tribute to the late President Omar Bongo of the Gabonese Republic, who contributed so much to promoting peace and stability in the region that we are discussing today.

The volatile security situation in Chad and the Central African Republic is cause for serious concern to all of us. Attacks by rebel forces continued in eastern Chad. Violence and banditry by armed groups increased in the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic and light weapons continued to proliferate. The political process to seek stability is essential to ensure security. Both Governments — Chad and the Central African Republic — are to be commended for their efforts at political dialogue with the rebel groups. For its part, the Government of Chad signed a peace agreement with three rebel groups in Tripoli, on 26 July — just two days ago. The valuable support of Libya is very important.

We are also encouraged by the progress in the election process since the Government of Chad launched a general population census in May. It is our hope that the parliamentary election to be held next year and the presidential election the year after will be organized as planned in a free and fair manner.

The Government of the Central African Republic is also in the process of establishing legal and institutional frameworks for parliamentary and presidential elections next year. We welcome those positive steps. I trust that the political dialogue among the Government, opposition and rebel groups will be further promoted and intensified.

Such volatile security affects the humanitarian situation in Chad and the Central African Republic. A growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons are experiencing difficulty in gaining access to necessary humanitarian support. The international community must be more active and more generous in delivering humanitarian assistance to the region.

On our part, Japan in recent months has disbursed approximately $10 million through United Nations programmes for humanitarian assistance in Chad and an additional $4.5 million for humanitarian assistance in the Central African Republic.

Tension between the Sudan and Chad is another source of concern for the stability of the region. We urge both countries to respect the Doha agreement for improved relations and to resolve differences through dialogue. To that end, I would like to underline the importance of immediately halting all hostilities and resuming the Dakar peace process. We support and encourage continuous active mediation and confidence-building efforts by countries in the region.

The United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) has an essential stabilizing role in the region through taking over the activities of the European Union-led peacekeeping force. Japan is concerned about the delay in deployment, which still stands below 50 per cent of the mandated troop strength. There may be a danger of gaps, if rotation of troops is not met by reliable new forces. We appreciate the contributions of all troop-contributing countries, but we need more support. I urge all concerned to make their best efforts to expedite seamless transitions in troop deployment.

It is also important to support capacity-building for Chadian police and judicial institutions. I call for the pledges to support the Détachement intégré de sécurité to be implemented without delay, in order to reinforce security in collaboration with MINURCAT. We welcome the ongoing efforts to strengthen Chadian judicial institutions and the rule of law. Such efforts are essential in order to defend human rights and to protect women and children.

I would like to conclude by expressing our gratitude to the members of the MINURCAT for their dedicated work and for the strong leadership of Mr. Angelo. MINURCAT needs all possible support to fulfil its responsibilities based on a strategic workplan with the benchmarks that have been defined.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): I would like to thank Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his very comprehensive briefing. Let me also commend him for his management of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) in

difficult times, particularly during the attacks by opposition groups in May.

Austria strongly condemns the renewed escalation of violence. This was the fourth major incursion by Chadian armed opposition groups crossing the border from the Sudan. This has again led to a temporary deterioration of the security situation in eastern Chad. We are also concerned about reports that recruitment by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and others — both voluntary and involuntary — is on the rise in refugee camps. A political solution remains the only viable one. Progress needs to be achieved at all levels with the armed opposition and the political opposition and with regard to relations between Chad and the Sudan.

Concerning the internal political dialogue between the Government of Chad and the political opposition, Austria welcomes the significant progress that has been made in implementation of the 13 August agreement. The establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission now opens the way for elections, which we hope will be held in June 2010. We believe that the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) could play a supporting role in the election process, which therefore should be considered positively if requested by the Government of Chad. Austria also welcomes MINURCAT's activities in resolving localized conflicts in eastern Chad.

Efforts are also needed to bring the armed groups back into the democratic process. Three groups signed a peace deal with the Chadian Government in Tripoli last weekend. That shows that the Sirte process remains open. We hope that progress can be made in bringing the main rebel group, the Union des forces de la résistance, to the negotiation table. We would like to commend the efforts of the Government of Libya in that regard. It will be very important to keep the implementation of those agreements on track.

We are deeply concerned about the continuation of severely strained relations between the Sudan and Chad. The signing of an agreement in Doha on 3 May provided us with a glimmer of hope. However, the subsequent incursion of armed groups across the border has once again shown how tense and unpredictable the security situation between the two countries is. Joint border monitoring by Chadian and Sudanese forces has been suggested on several occasions. Austria thinks that that is an interesting proposal, and we would be interested in the opinion of the Special Representative on that issue.

Relations between the Sudan and Chad have a direct impact on all developments in the region. All regional and international actors should use their influence to achieve an improvement of the situation. We therefore also welcome the fact that the issue of the improvement of overall peace and security in the region is now a benchmark by which to measure progress in the implementation of MINURCAT's mandate.

Austria would also like to underline the importance of MINURCAT's monitoring of the human rights situation in eastern Chad. We are concerned about increasing reports of attacks on humanitarian personnel, sexual violence and child abductions from internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Efforts should be made to prevent demobilized children from being recruited once again by rebel groups. All parties to the conflict should act in compliance with their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights laws.

On IDPs, the facilitation of voluntary return and resettlement in secure and sustainable conditions constitutes a core part of MINURCAT's mandate. We understand that such returns have repeatedly hit obstacles or are difficult to measure because of migratory habits. Due to the volatile security situation, challenges to creating an environment conducive to returns remain. Furthermore, alternatives to return and resettlement need to be identified. We hope that those further aspects will be incorporated into the first benchmark.

Austria welcomes the training and deployment of police officers of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) in eastern Chad, which has contributed to enhancing security in refugee camps and key towns. We acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the Chadian authorities to deal with recent cases of ill discipline, and look forward to the upcoming comprehensive assessment of DIS.

We continue to believe that Chad has a key significance for the stability of the entire region. As is known, Austria is engaged in MINURCAT with some 130 troops. An Austrian national, Ambassador Georg Lennkh, is the Special Representative of the European Union Presidency for the Political Dialogue in Chad.

Austria highly appreciates all efforts undertaken by MINURCAT and the United Nations country team, and welcomes the benchmarks and timelines for progress elaborated in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/359).

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): I, too, would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Angelo for his briefing this morning. We appreciate the work of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) in contributing to the security of refugees and internally displaced persons in those countries. The United States is also grateful to the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic for their support of MINURCAT and their commitment to providing humanitarian organizations access to those in greatest need.

Today, I would like to discuss briefly four issues: MINURCAT's deployment; the activities of the United Nations-trained Chadian special police; increasing levels of violence in the Central African Republic; and the deterioration of relations between Chad and the Sudan.

First, we recognize the difficulties of deploying to Chad and the Central African Republic, and we acknowledge that it has been only four months since the 15 March transfer of authority from the European Union Force to MINURCAT. Nonetheless, we are concerned that the deployment of troops has been impeded by delays in the procurement of contingent-owned equipment. The current deployment of the contingent at 46 per cent of its authorized strength is insufficient to provide the level of security and assistance required in MINURCAT's mandate.

We share the concern of the Secretary-General that a security gap of any duration leaves the Mission unacceptably vulnerable. The United States will continue to provide equip-and-train programmes to deploying African contingents. We urge all organizations assisting with the deployment to take immediate steps to expedite troop deployments and to ensure that those troops are adequately trained and equipped to perform the Mission's mandate.

Secondly, we are pleased that the activities of the United Nations-trained Chadian special police, the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS), have resulted in improved security in and around refugee and internally displaced persons camps. However, we continue to be concerned about deficiencies in training and equipping DIS. Recent attacks on DIS sadly demonstrate that it must enhance its capacity to defend itself against armed bandits.

There also have been cases of serious misconduct on the part of some DIS officers, and we are glad that appropriate action has been taken in those cases. We believe that the DIS would benefit from further United Nations training on weapons handling and police conduct. We look forward to receiving additional information from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on its assessment of DIS.

Thirdly, we are deeply concerned about the growing violence in the Central African Republic, caused by inter-ethnic disputes, banditry and lawlessness. Internal displacement around Birao has increased. MINURCAT's mandate in north-eastern Central African Republic includes limited operations to extract civilians and humanitarian workers in danger, along with protecting United Nations personnel and equipment. We urge MINURCAT to maximize its capabilities to protect civilians and humanitarian actors in the area by ensuring that the troop contingent deployed to Birao remains at full strength at all times and by maximizing the number of patrols conducted.

Fourthly, the insecurity caused by the operations of armed groups in Chad and in the Sudan jeopardizes the peace and security of the entire region. We urge both Chad and the Sudan to work towards easing tensions and cooperating in implementing the Doha accord and previous agreements aimed at normalizing relations between the two countries. Both Governments must end all military and logistical support to armed groups operating within their respective countries.

In conclusion, let me reiterate our strong support for MINURCAT. The Mission functions in the midst of a complicated regional conflict and fragile security situation that no single actor is capable of resolving. We strongly encourage regional actors, such as the African Union and the Arab League, along with regional Member States, to use their good offices to influence the Governments of Chad and the Sudan to abide by existing peace agreements, end support to rebel groups, and take all necessary steps to protect and assist the vulnerable citizens within their borders.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Angelo,

for his briefing on the work of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). We welcome the Permanent Representatives of the Central African Republic and Chad participating in today's meeting.

We are concerned about the situation in the Central African Republic and Chad. We welcome the progress made in the peace process in the Central African Republic. We note that the Central African Liberation Movement for Justice has committed to laying down its arms and entering into a dialogue with the Government. We appreciate the unremitting efforts of the Government and other participants. We hope that the country's presidential elections can be conducted smoothly and according to plan, and call on the international community to provide the necessary material and technical assistance.

We support the strengthening of MINURCAT, in coordination with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic, and hope that it will help to provide more substantive assistance to the Government of the Central African Republic in maintaining peace and stability and promoting economic and social development.

We are following the situation in Chad closely. We appreciate the consensus reached between the Chadian Government and the opposition parties on the legislative framework for the elections and the National Independent Electoral Commission. We encourage both parties to maintain their dialogue and to reach a comprehensive political reconciliation. We note with pleasure that, on 26 July the three rebel groups — the Union des forces pour la démocratie et le développement, the Mouvement national pour le renouveau and the Front pour le salut de la république — signed a peace agreement with the Government of Chad, and we appreciate the good offices of Libya in this regard. We condemn the Union des forces de la résistance (UFR) for its attacks in early May against eastern Chad, and urge UFR to settle its disputes through political means and negotiation.

China is deeply concerned about relations between Chad and the Sudan. We hope that both sides can maintain restraint and prevent the situation from deteriorating further. We hope that both sides can address their concerns and problems through dialogue. The international community, for its part, should make greater efforts to promote peace and negotiation. Not long ago, the Chinese Government's Special Representative for Africa, Ambassador Liu Guijin, visited both Chad and the Sudan in an effort to help improve relations between them. We will continue to work with the international community in order to help ease the situation in the region.

China is satisfied with the progress in the deployment of MINURCAT. We appreciate its efforts to help the Government of Chad set up the Détachement intégré de sécurité, which we believe will help improve the security situation and environment in the refugee camps in eastern Chad. We hope that MINURCAT will pursue these efforts and cooperate closely with the host countries in order to complete its planned deployment as soon as possible.

Mr. Hoang Chi Trung (Viet Nam): I would like to thank Mr. Angelo for his briefing. My delegation is deeply concerned about the tense security situation in eastern Chad, especially after the military operations by rebel groups against Government forces last May. We are also troubled by the deteriorating security situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) in the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic, as well as the rising tensions in relations between Chad and the Sudan.

On the other hand, we are pleased with the progress made in the implementation of the agreement of 13 August 2007 between the Chadian Government and political opposition parties with regard to the legislative framework for elections and the census. We wish to call on all parties concerned to build on this positive momentum to promote an inclusive and comprehensive political process in Chad, facilitating a lasting solution to the current conflict there. We also urge Chad and the Sudan to exercise the utmost restraint, defuse the current crisis, and seriously implement the Dakar agreement, as well as other relevant accords.

We wish to reiterate our full support for MINURCAT's discharging of its mandate in accordance with Security Council resolution 1861 (2009). In view of the resource constraints facing MINURCAT, we call upon the donor countries and troop-contributing countries to extend the necessary resources and provide military enablers to expedite MINURCAT's full deployment.

Despite enormous challenges, MINURCAT has made considerable contributions not only to the management and resolution of conflicts in Chad, but also to facilitating humanitarian assistance in its areas of operation. We note positively the assistance MINURCAT has extended to the Chadian Government in training and deploying the Détachement intégré de sécurité, which has helped improve the humanitarian situation on the ground.

We are pleased with the close cooperation and consultations between MINURCAT and the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic, especially with regard to the conclusion of the status of mission agreement. We believe that, if MINURCAT is to implement its mandate successfully, such cooperation should be strengthened further.

Finally, we support the strategic workplan developed by MINURCAT, and we share the Secretary-General's observations on the benchmarks for the Mission's future exit strategy. We hope that MINURCAT and the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic will work closely with each other in preparing for this goal and in further improving peace and stability in eastern Chad, north-eastern Central African Republic and the region as a whole.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): We thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2009/359) and Special Representative Angelo for his briefing.

Like other members, Turkey is concerned about the negative developments that have occurred over the past three months and that have served only to aggravate an already tenuous humanitarian situation. It is clear that attacks by the Chadian armed opposition, and tensions between N'Djamena and Khartoum, have combined to make the environment in which the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) is being deployed much more complicated.

The progress that MINURCAT has made thus far in attaining full operational capacity is noteworthy. We hope that, as in the case of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur across the border, MINURCAT can also come close to achieving its authorized strength before the end of the year. As this process continues, it will be important to ensure that there are no security gaps due to delays in deployment.

The full deployment of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) is a major achievement. Turkey welcomes the additional security it has provided. MINURCAT will have to continue to support DIS logistically, technically and operationally as it assumes more and more responsibilities and works to become fully operational. Bearing in mind that MINURCAT cannot stay forever, the Chadian Government will also need to do more to support DIS.

Ultimately, whether through DIS or its armed forces, Chadian authorities will eventually have to assume full responsibility for the security situation in that part of the country. It is therefore important for the Chadian Government to work sincerely to create a political setting through which the sources of conflict in the East of the country can be efficiently addressed.

The agreement brokered just a few days ago in Tripoli between the Chadian Government and the National Movement is a very welcome step in the right direction. We hope that, with the help of ongoing mediation efforts, the Chadian Government can build upon that momentum and create an inclusive and comprehensive political process through which other larger elements of armed opposition can be brought back into the fold.

At the regional level, the deterioration of bilateral relations between Chad and the Sudan is having very unfortunate consequences on the ground, not least for civilians. Cross-border air and ground raids are not helping what is already a grave situation. Both countries need to understand that their interests lie not in conflict but in cooperation. A change of tone and approach is sorely needed. Many agreements have been enacted, and not implemented. Turkey believes that a high-level mediation effort, building on existing agreements, that takes into consideration the complex interests and dynamics at play and includes the right incentives is the way forward for a lasting political settlement.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), for his introduction of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/359).

The security situation in MINURCAT's area of operation continues to deteriorate as a result of

banditry and rebel activity. Unfortunately, that has direct repercussions on the humanitarian situation in eastern Chad and in the North-East of the Central African Republic. Many refugees and internally displaced persons are still in great need of humanitarian assistance. Also disturbing are the results of the activities of armed groups and bandits during the period under consideration. They have caused significant loss of human life and have endangered the lives of humanitarian personnel and restricted their movement, resulting in a negative impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need.

We welcome the positive developments in the implementation of the 13 August 2007 agreement between the Government of Chad and the political opposition. In particular, we welcome the consensus reached on the legislative framework for the elections and modalities for the establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission. We are also pleased to note that the census is moving ahead, which will ultimately make it possible to determine the electoral districts and to hold elections.

The leader of our revolution and the President of the African Union, Colonel Muammar Al-Qadhafi, has reiterated his concern about re-establishing peace in eastern Chad, the Central African Republic and Darfur. Libya believes that it is possible to end conflict through comprehensive political solutions in the region, thereby strengthening international peace and security. We would therefore like to see rebel groups in Chad sit down with the Government in order to implement the Sirte agreement of October 2007. Libya would also like to see all Chadian opposition groups join in a national reconciliation effort. In that regard, we welcome the agreement signed in Tripoli between the Chadian Government and three opposition groups.

Libya also continues to support the political process in the Central African Republic to safeguard the achievements of the political talks held in December 2008. In that connection, we refer to the latest positive results in Libya's mediation efforts, which led to the signing of an agreement between the Government of the Central African Republic and armed groups headed by Mr. Abdoulaye Miskine that brought this group back into the political process.

We would also like to reiterate the importance of strengthening peace efforts in the Central African Republic. We welcome the efforts made by the Government, local stakeholders, the Peacebuilding Commission and international and regional actors. We hope that the international community will extend its support to peace and development projects as they are an important factor in consolidating stability and peace.

Libya is aware of the direct impact of the relationship between the Governments of Chad and the Sudan on the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Chad and Darfur. We therefore welcome the mediation efforts of the Government of Qatar and its cooperation with the leader of our revolution and the President of the African Union, Colonel Muammar Al-Qadhafi, to ensure that the agreements signed between the parties are implemented in order to ultimately normalize relations between the countries.

With regard to MINURCAT's deployment to eastern Chad and the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic, we are pleased to note the efforts of Mr. Angelo and all the Mission's personnel, who are working in such dangerous circumstances. We express our concern over the fact that not all of the Mission's staff have been deployed. We hope that that will be done quickly, so as to resolve problems regarding the lack of materiel and personnel and to equip the Mission to effectively carry out its mandate.

We hope that MINURCAT will also be deployed to areas of tension in the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic. In that regard, we welcome the positive role played by the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) in improving security in refugee camps and main towns in eastern Chad despite the difficult circumstances. Those conditions are difficult both due to the lack of security and want of equipment. We hope that DIS will be strengthened and its deployment accelerated.

We welcome the workplan annexed to the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Benchmarks, indicators of progress and key activities: 2009-2011". We appreciate the need for and importance of developing such benchmarks at all levels — military, humanitarian and political. Having said that, however, we do not support the imposition of a time frame, even if one should be established, because timing should be based on practical forecasts. Otherwise, that would send an erroneous message to the various political parties, refugees and the internally displaced.

We do need to be realistic. Progress may be achieved soon or delayed for some reason, and that might make some people particularly optimistic and others particularly pessimistic. That is why we believe that it would be wiser to confine ourselves to objective benchmarks and indicators of progress that are not associated with a timetable.

In other words, we should ensure that the benchmarks envisaged are associated with genuinely realistic indicators of progress. All of that will depend on the political resolve of all parties concerned and the provision of assistance by the international community to the peace process and the ongoing mediation efforts. It should not be subject to time factors, since it is plain that they have not been very effective in many long-standing conflicts.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin my statement by thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Chad and the Central African Republic, Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo, for his briefing this morning. I also welcome the presence in the Council today of the Permanent Representatives of the Central African Republic and Chad.

My delegation acknowledges that the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) has made significant progress for the benefit of the region. First of all, it assisted in the complete deployment of the Détachement intégré de sécurité in April 2009, in spite of the limitations that have been pointed out today. Similarly, MINURCAT has contributed to the agreements between the Government of Chad and the opposition with a view to adopting an electoral legislative framework and establishing a National Independent Electoral Commission in that country. Lastly, it has participated very actively in the verification of 1,077 kilometres free of mines and unexploded ordnance in eastern Chad.

Despite these significant advances, we view with concern the delay in the deployment of the authorized force for MINURCAT. In particular, we are concerned about the effects that a mission operating at less than half of its strength may have when it comes to fulfilling its humanitarian activities. We ask the Secretariat to keep us informed on progress in this area.

I hardly need to point out that the political situation in the region is delicate. I hardly need to add that the situation is complicated even further by the close interrelationship that exists among the situations of the countries of the region, chiefly Chad, the Central African Republic and the Sudan. This complexity, however, should not serve as a pretext for inaction.

My delegation, following the approach that we have successfully advocated in other conflicts around the world, takes the view that peace in the region requires political dialogue in order to normalize relationships between Chad and the Central African Republic, as well as between Chad and the Sudan. Similarly, we believe in the need to take measures that will build a climate of trust to ensure that these States refrain from providing support to armed rebel groups operating on their territories against their respective neighbours.

My delegation underscores the importance of developing measures to fulfil the Doha agreement of May 2009 and the Dakar agreement of March 2008 between Chad and the Central African Republic. It might be useful to consider the possibility of establishing a tracking and monitoring mechanism for those agreements and for the conflict.

The security situation in MINURCAT's area of operations continues to be tense owing to the stepped-up activities of armed groups to the detriment of relationships between the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic, and also to the mutual accusations of support being given to opposition armed groups.

It is disquieting to see the worsening in the human rights situation in the area. We need to address the complaints of incidents directed against humanitarian workers of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, as well as their facilities and violations directed against vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

The violation of the rights of the child in the Central African Republic and in Chad continues to be of great concern to my delegation. For this reason, through our work in the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, we shall seek to appeal to armed groups and both Governments to develop plans of action that will help to prevent the recruitment, the re-recruitment and the use of children,

as well as accountability mechanisms on the basis of resolution 1612 (2005).

I take this opportunity to commend the activities of MINURCAT that led to the handover into the custody of UNICEF 84 children who were pressed into service by the Chadian forces during the recent hostilities.

I would like to conclude by indicating that my delegation supports the strategic workplan proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2009/359), which appears to us to be quite complete as it includes aspects of protection for civilians and humanitarian agents, humanitarian assistance and the strengthening of the legal framework in order to enhance access to justice, security and the rule of law.

Mr. Quarrey (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): I join others in thanking Special Representative of Secretary-General Victor Angelo for his briefing today. We are very grateful to him and all the contributors to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) for its work to date.

MINURCAT is clearly starting to have an effect on the ground, but the situation in eastern Chad remains of serious concern. I will not repeat the point that others have made, but it is clear that there has been a very difficult security situation there, especially since May.

I would like to focus on three points. First of all, peace in Chad remains inextricably linked to peace in Darfur. We need more cooperation between N'Djamena and Khartoum and less trading of accusations. Chadian aerial bombing of Darfur is of deep concern to us. We very much agree with the Secretary-General on the importance of a political process between Chad and the Sudan in delivering a lasting solution, and reiterate his call for a meeting of the Dakar Contact Group. That should be a very high priority now.

Secondly, we welcome development by the United Nations of a strategic workplan and the benchmarks therein. These provide a clearer picture of the progress of the Mission towards fulfilling its mandate and of the effect of the wider context on the progress being made by MINURCAT.

But one area the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/359) does not tackle is the issue of recruitment to rebel movements from refugee and internally displaced persons camps. It would be interesting to hear the views of MINURCAT and Mr. Angelo, either today or in a later report, as to the scale of that problem and, indeed, how it might be addressed.

Thirdly, we welcome the full deployment of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) and the evidence of its improving effectiveness. DIS has provided us, the Secretary-General's report notes, with exceptional humanitarian escorts as MINURCAT has developed its operational capacity. Going forward, however, it will be important that DIS ensure that its escort services are not delivered to the detriment of its work within the refugee camps and thus do not undermine the civil status of those camps. So it will be important that MINURCAT take responsibility for those escort duties as soon as possible.

Mr. Skračić (Croatia): I would like to join other delegations in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Victor Da Silva Angelo, for presenting the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/359).

Like other delegations, we welcome the progress that has been made in implementing the 13 August 2007 agreement between the Government and political opposition groups in Chad, especially with regard to the status of the opposition, as well as to the adoption of implementing modalities for the electoral code and the successful launching and completion of the general population census.

As stated by the Secretary-General, the successful holding of national elections, if they are free, fair, inclusive and transparent, could not only provide a fresh chance for national reconciliation, but also prove to be decisive in strengthening the internal political dialogue and therefore political stability throughout Chad. We urge the Chadian Government to build upon this positive momentum to create the conditions for an inclusive and comprehensive political process and, it is to be hoped, address the root causes of conflict in the eastern parts of the country.

As has been previously stated, the key to overcoming Chad's internal weaknesses and vulnerability is through an inclusive political dialogue. We encourage all groups to work together on such issues as the increased protection of human rights — including the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons, especially women and children — and the fight against impunity for crimes committed.

It is unfortunate that the aforementioned positive political momentum in Chad has not been duplicated at the subregional level. The relations between Chad and the Sudan seriously deteriorated during the reporting period, and the security situation in north-eastern Central African Republic has deteriorated considerably owing to banditry and armed robbery.

With regard to Chad-Sudan relations, while we welcome the initial success in reaching the Doha agreement on 3 May this year, there was an almost concurrent attack by Chadian armed opposition forces of the Union des forces de la résistance from western Darfur deep into eastern Chad, with the stated aim of overthrowing the Chadian Government. That incursion not only caused an immediate breakdown of the aforementioned, hard-fought Doha agreement, but also precipitated a Chadian armed reaction against targets in western Darfur, including through airstrikes, which served only to exacerbate an already precarious security situation in both countries. Like the Secretary-General, Croatia calls upon the two Governments to stop supporting each other's rebel groups and to redouble their efforts to build mutual confidence and ease tensions in the region so as to try to restore some semblance of order and stability.

Croatia is also concerned at the grave humanitarian situation in eastern Chad, with up to 400,000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) seeking aid of some sort. The long-term presence of refugee and IDP camps in eastern Chad not only puts pressure on the local populations, but also provides ample room in which bandits and armed groups can operate. We therefore very much welcome the deployment of security elements of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) in 12 refugee camps and some key towns in eastern Chad to provide security. We also welcome and appreciate MINURCAT's efforts to help ensure that DIS receives the support and training it needs. We note, however, that DIS is a community policing force and is not equipped to react to large-scale military incursions.

Finally, while acknowledging that MINURCAT is still at less than 50 per cent capacity — which could definitely have an impact on its effectiveness — we hope that possible contributions on the part of a number of troop-contributing countries by sending troops to bring MINURCAT up to full strength will be realized by the end of this year. We also acknowledge that MINURCAT is suffering from a lack of some key enablers, including military helicopters, and express the hope that new troop-contributing countries will consider this when making their pledges.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Uganda.

I wish to join other Council members in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), Mr. Victor Angelo, for his briefing. I welcome the participation of the representatives of Chad and the Central African Republic in this meeting.

We are encouraged by the efforts of the Government of Chad and the political opposition towards the progress made in the implementation of the 13 August 2007 agreement and by the consensus reached on the legislative framework for elections. However, much more needs to be done in order to consolidate the gains achieved so far. The launching of an attack by Chadian armed opposition groups on 4 May this year illustrates the fragile political situation in the country.

We commend the Government of the Central African Republic for the inclusive political dialogue of December 2008 and for measures undertaken to foster dialogue, including the establishment of a broad-based Government on 28 January 2009. Nevertheless, we are concerned about the armed rebellion in the North-East and its negative impact on the stability of the country. We call upon both the Government and armed groups to take concrete steps towards ending the rebellion by addressing political disagreements through peaceful means.

We commend the mediation efforts of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The normalization of relations between the Sudan and Chad is critical to a comprehensive and lasting peace in the two countries and the entire region. Durable peace and stability in the region will require the resolution of the internal conflicts prevailing in both countries.

Uganda commends the leadership and the staff of MINURCAT for their work. In view of the valuable contribution that the Mission is making, it is critical that the deployment of MINURCAT to its full capacity be expedited so that it can better implement its mandate.

We welcome the development of the strategic workplan, with benchmarks to measure progress on the implementation of activities mandated by resolution 1861 (2009). We call upon MINURCAT to focus on strengthening the capacities of national institutions as a core part of its exit strategy.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I call on the representative of the Central African Republic.

Mr. Poukré-Kono (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): I welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (S/2009/359) and the latest developments it brings to the attention of the Security Council and the international community. On behalf of my Government, I should like to thank MINURCAT and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Victor Angelo, for the outstanding manner in which they are carrying out their mandates. They can be assured of the full support of the Central African Government.

The situation prevailing in the North-East, particularly in the prefectures of Vakaga and Haute Kotto, remains worrisome in several particulars. Following the inclusive political dialogue clashes broke out between certain rebel forces and the Central African armed forces; a new rebel movement formed, causing a rupture within the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement; ethnic clashes erupted; and alliances were established. These have been accompanied by mass displacement of the population and restrictions on humanitarian, economic, trade, agricultural activities and the proliferation of light weapons. In order to remedy these problems — in particular ethnic tensions — the Government has intervened to try to reconcile the feuding communities. The restoration of the rule of law is sorely needed.

Government mediation efforts were undertaken immediately, since the Government is the party with the primary responsibility for protecting its population from the woes of insecurity. It therefore launched talks with certain rebel groups that were hesitant to enter into the inclusive political dialogue. This approach has brought those groups into closer interaction with the Government, and certain groups have signed on to the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement of June 2008.

This progress is welcome, as it will facilitate the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, which is very important for any country emerging from conflict. That process is necessary both to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs created by the conflicts and to support socio-economic development.

I have mentioned in one of my statements to this Council the strategic geography of the North-East of the Central African Republic, which forms a triangle with Chad and the Sudan. This area was vital to the country because of the former lively trade with Port Sudan and the seasonal cattle migration patterns from Chad, along with its mineral and animal resources. Since then, it has become too dangerous for economic activity due to the emergence of rebel groups and the impact on the area of the situation in southern Darfur.

The activities of MINURCAT, which has replaced the European Union-led military force in the region, have increased, and with good reason. The United Nations has shown great concern for my country from the time when crises gripped the country for an entire decade until we emerged from them, and we are therefore ready to cooperate fully with the Organization. The consultations between MINURCAT and the Government have proven fruitful, as most of our discussions have often led to agreements. Of course, MINURCAT is mandated to provide counsel and advice, as evidenced by the fact that the Government has been able to establish a purely humanitarian corridor, with no apparent armed escorts, to come to the aid of its population along the route from Ndélé, in the Central African Republic, to Daha, in Chad.

Aware of the logistical difficulties in the Central African Republic, MINURCAT put its means of transportation at the disposal of the Central African Republic authorities in order to enable them to come occasionally to the area of operations. This occurred when ethnic groups clashed in the northern part of the country. Despite the meagre resources at their disposal and the difficult terrain, MINURCAT has been able to support the Government in times of crisis.

We would request here a strengthening of assistance to MINURCAT to enable it to easily deploy in its area of operations. The difficulties on the ground are not negligible, which only highlights the commitment of MINURCAT to the refugees and

displaced people of the Central African Republic. We remain grateful for its humanitarian efforts. We reiterate our commitment to supporting MINURCAT in the fulfilment of its mandate. We would also like once again to express our gratitude to France, which is also helping us in terms of logistics in the northern part of the country.

My Government believes that the activities of MINURCAT, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, the Mission of the Economic Community of Central African States for the consolidation of peace, and the Peacebuilding Commission must complement each other in a country emerging from conflict. In its exit strategy, MINURCAT identified the criteria for stabilizing the situation in north-eastern Central African Republic with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes that we will carry out in accordance with the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic of the Peacebuilding Commission.

In conclusion, I call once again for a serious examination of the situation in north-eastern Central African Republic on the basis of a regional approach. The stakes are high for all the actors on the ground. Another concern is the activities of the Ugandan rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army, who carried out incursions in 2008 and 2009 in Obo in the South-East, leaving behind victims, taking supplies and seed stock with them, taking men hostage as porters, kidnapping women and enlisting child soldiers.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Chad.

Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I take the floor to say a few brief words on the excellent report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/359) on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), which has just been introduced to us by Mr. Angelo. First of all, however, I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month of July.

With respect to MINURCAT, I note that it is deploying to the satisfaction of my country and the United Nations. Its positive role in protecting vulnerable populations, including refugees, displaced persons, humanitarian workers and others, should be recognized and welcomed, as most speakers have done. The international community, in particular this Council and all peace- and justice-loving countries, should work to meet its very urgent staff and equipment needs so that it can effectively and fully carry out its mandate in optimal conditions. We warmly thank the institutions and countries that have contributed human and financial resources.

We also express our gratitude and thanks to the generous contributors to the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) trust fund. That local policing unit is quite original and has a role on the ground that is of great importance. The financing of the DIS will unfortunately be a source of concern, if, by the end of the year, additional financial efforts are not made both by previous contributors, who have been generous, and by new contributors. Chad, for its part, intends to commit to progressively taking charge of the DIS following negotiations planned for 2010 with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

I would like to note, as most speakers today have done, that the tireless resolve of Chad to resolve its domestic problems has recently been illustrated by three major events: the completion of a census of the population, with a view to holding free and transparent legislative and then presidential elections, beginning in June 2010; the establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission, which is equitably made up of 15 members of the majority and 15 members of the opposition, with its chairman chosen by a consensus of all parties; and the return to legality of several hundred elements of armed groups in the country, which had come from the Sudan. I would note in particular, as the Council has, the Mouvement national of Mr. Ahmat Hassaballah Soubiane which on 25 July signed a reconciliation agreement with the Government thanks to the ongoing good offices of our brother and guide, Muammar Al-Qadhafi, to the mediators of the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States.

Faced with Sudanese aggression, we remain wary and poised to deal with any eventuality. Given our previous disappointment following Khartoum's violations of many peace agreements, the international community may well understand our suspicions. Contrary to recent allegations made by our Sudanese neighbour, we have not been flying over its airspace or carrying out strikes against armed groups in Darfur. Curiously, the Sudan claims that we are carrying out flyovers of its territory with Jaguar and Mirage-type planes, which our air force does not possess.

We acknowledge having carried out air strikes to destroy forces that came from the Sudan and assembled along the border on the side of Tissi, in Chadian territory. The international community cannot reproach us for exercising our legitimate and inalienable right to self-defence by land or air military means. However, we remain fully ready to normalize our relations with the Sudan, in the interests of our two peoples, who are brothers and neighbours. Therefore, we take due note of the concerns and observations expressed by all speakers and will do our best to provide them with appropriate follow-up. We reaffirm our full cooperation with the United Nations as it carries out its noble mission of peace in our country.

The President: I will now give the floor to Mr. Angelo to respond to comments and issues that have been raised.

Mr. Angelo (*spoke in French*): I take the floor to clarify two or three points, but before I do I wish to show the Council a number of photographs.

The first photograph is of Birao, the capital of Vakaga, at least 60 per cent of which was destroyed by the two attacks in June. Until late May, the town was an important commercial centre; life had started up there again. Since then, the town has been almost completely abandoned; it is a ghost town. The population has fled to the bush and, despite our deployment, they are not confident enough to return.

The second photograph is an example of a Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) police station in our area of operations in eastern Chad. The men and women in blue are from contingents of the Gendarmerie and the Chadian National Police that we have trained as DIS officers and deployed on the ground. These photographs are women of the DIS.

This photograph is of the Iriba prison in eastern Chad. I did not want to show conditions inside because I do not wish to shock the Council. I am just showing the outside walls, and leaving the rest to the imagination. We will revisit the subject of prisons tomorrow at a meeting on our programme activities in eastern Chad.

This is photograph shows a conflict resolution meeting on among the communities. I will speak of that shortly, but this is to show a specific example of people of different ethnic groups meeting together and spending an entire day — in this case — discussing ways to resolve their conflicts.

(*spoke in English*)

I would now like to say two or three things. First, I thank members for the kind words that have been said by all of the delegations concerning the work of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad. We have staff throughout the country, in some cases in extremely difficult conditions. Very often we receive complaints — from, for instance, the Détachement intégré de sécurité — that their living conditions are not good at all. That is true, but then I take them to see the living conditions of our own staff, and in many cases those conditions are not better. I therefore thank Council members for their kind words. We can pledge that we will maintain our engagement and commitment, and at the same time we will try to improve the working and living conditions not only of the staff, but of the Détachement intégré de sécurité and their elements.

When it comes to conflict resolution at the community level, I would like to mention two things. I think it is a very important activity because very often these conflicts are a first source of combatants for the rebellions if they are not addressed. Very often, some of those combatants join the rebellions because there have been a number of conflicts between different groups at the community level. Those conflicts have not been properly addressed or properly mediated, and one of the sides decides to take the road to the desert and join one of the rebellions.

The second thing to mention that is important in the context of community dialogue and community conflict resolution is that, with conflict resolution, we create conditions for the return of the displaced, and that is very important as well.

As far as the Dakar process is concerned, we believe that the conditions are there for the border monitoring mechanism to be put in place. We need a meeting as soon as possible of all of the members of the Dakar group, and preferably that meeting should take place in Khartoum. The most recent meeting took place in N'Djamena. As a confidence-building measure, the next meeting should take place in Khartoum, and during that meeting Chad, the Sudan and all of the other members of the Dakar process should agree on the immediate implementation of the border monitoring mechanism.

As I said, I believe the conditions are there. The point is to make sure that, on both sides of the border, a number of confidence-building measures are taken prior to the next meeting of the Dakar process. I am very much counting on the different countries that are part of the process to be able to create those confidence-building measures and hold that meeting.

With respect to DIS, there was a reference to discipline. I have to say that we and the Government of Chad have taken questions of discipline very seriously. All of those who have misbehaved have now been expelled from the force. I must also note that the percentage of cases of serious indiscipline stands at around 3 per cent. That is well within accepted standards, because very often these types of forces have an indiscipline rate of about 5 per cent. We have discipline problems, but not only have we been able to deal with them, but in percentage terms they are not outside the usual range for these types of forces.

The DIS approach is an extremely innovative one that combines international security mechanisms with strengthened national security mechanisms. We must make sure that the DIS is a successful experience. We need resources and we also need to be sure that everyone understands that one of the key criteria of our successful presence in Chad is the successful implementation of the DIS concept.

Like all Council members, we, too, are concerned about the deployment delays. We urge all those who have pledged to contribute to the force to make those contributions as soon as possible. We also urge those already there to envisage an extension of their presence if they are planning to leave within the near future. We truly need the presence of everyone. I can assure the Council that, if we are fully deployed, we will make a difference in eastern Chad. The Council can note my words as I speak, and we can talk about that at one of the Council's future meetings. We will make a difference; we only need to make sure that we are fully deployed there. We also need, of course, the military enablers.

We are certainly very concerned by the situation in the north-eastern Central African Republic. Since early May, there has been a very serious deterioration of the situation. There has been a proliferation of ethnic-based militias and weapons. Recently, we have seen also some of the militias crossing the border into Darfur and looking for support from their kith and kin there in their fight against other groups. We are very concerned about that.

We are trying to make sure that the resources that we have available in Birao are maximized. We are not asking for additional resources. We are trying to make full use of the limited resources that we have in the area, and we are creating the security conditions for the political work that the Government of the Central African Republic is supposed to do in the area. We are providing not only the security environment that it needs to do the mediation and the political work, but also some logistical support, taking into consideration the extremely limited means of the Government in Bangui.

Allow me to say a final word on benchmarks and the workplan. The United Kingdom delegation asked for some concrete figures and analysis of the question of recruitment in the camps. We will certainly do that in the next report. That is a very serious matter. We are looking at different approaches and strategies to deal with it. It is ongoing, and we will come back to the Council with not only an analysis, but also with concrete measures that we intend to implement, or might already be implementing at that stage, depending very much on our capacity on the ground, particularly in terms of the force strength.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6173

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6173rd meeting

Wednesday, 29 July 2009, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Somdah
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Guillermet
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Mr. Wolff
	Viet Nam	Mr. Le Luong Minh

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2009/373)

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09-43003 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2009/373)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Omaar (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Omaar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Lamamra to take a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Ould Abdallah to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/373, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia.

At this meeting, the Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. Ould Abdallah: I am grateful for this opportunity to brief the Council.

While the situation remains fragile, there have been positive developments in Somalia. As I have told the Council previously, a new paradigm is being implemented. Despite multiple constraints, the Government is resisting and repelling multiple attempts to overthrow it and seize power illegally by force. It is also overcoming two decades of scepticism over Somalia.

I believe that, today, we are at a turning point. It is clear that the population and its traditional leaders reject violence and those behind it. Therefore, the support of the international community is even more crucial at this time.

In that context, I would like to recognize once again the extraordinary help provided by members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the African Union, the European Union and Commission, the Contact Group, including the United States, Norway and many others, especially the subregional organization the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). They have mobilized quickly to provide critical assistance on the ground, as pledged during the Brussels conference in April, which was attended by the Secretary-General. To facilitate this process, the Somali Government has employed the services of an international accounting firm to ensure transparency.

The Government has made significant progress in training, equipping and paying its security forces. However, more needs to be done, especially in the area of coordination and organization. At the same time, the political process is moving forward. The Djibouti

agreement, signed in August last year, remains open to those who want to address the Somali situation through peaceful means. Recently, an important agreement was signed between the Government and the well-respected religious group Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a, which has already shown results. There has also been the inclusion of some elements from an opposition group, and one of its leaders has become a deputy minister. That open-door policy should be continued.

My understanding is that the Government would welcome members of those currently in the opposition, be they leaders or simply members of the rank and file of their groups. Somalis should discuss peace among themselves in their own country. Those who fail to join the peace process will miss an opportunity to contribute to rebuilding the country. My Office stands ready to assist and help the continued discussion among Somalis.

The time has come to focus on the needs and interests of ordinary citizens in Somalia, who are denied food to alleviate their hunger and protection against fear. Their suffering should strike at the heart of all Somali patriots and be the main international concern. Their country has been taken hostage by a small group interested only in its own immediate profit. Insecurity is becoming a source of revenue and power.

The Somali people have endured too much. They have seen their loved ones killed and maimed. They have been forced to flee their homes again and again and suffered endless abuses of their human rights. Their suffering must be ended if they are to live normal lives, as people do in many other African countries.

In this context, I condemn the abduction of all innocent Somalis and foreigners who are being held for ransom, and call for their unconditional release. I appeal to all those, Somalis and non-Somalis alike, who can help, directly or indirectly, to do so by telephone, e-mail and every other means of making contact in order to help free the unfortunate hostages. It is impossible to see how such inhuman actions could help Somalis or the image of Somalia in any way. Likewise, I condemn the looting of United Nations offices in south-central Somalia, as well as efforts to silence the media through intimidation, extortion and the targeted killing of journalists.

The question of justice must be seriously addressed. Fighting impunity and various abuses against civilians should remain high on the agenda. In this regard, the international community should help the Somalis decide the way forward. This is why my Office is organizing a meeting on that issue towards the middle of next month. Moreover, the Monitoring Group based in Nairobi is active in trying to identify those who might face sanctions.

Before I conclude, allow me to stress that past failures should not discourage us from taking future action to promote stability. In the short and medium term, there are concrete steps that can be taken by this Council.

First, while the Government has made important strides, it still requires immediate support, political and financial, to improve the situation. The authorities in Puntland and Somaliland also need resources to ensure that stability endures.

Secondly, immediate and concrete support must be extended to the African Union Mission in Somalia. The African Union troops have shown remarkable courage and dedication, in solidarity with the Somali people. They deserve the backing of all Council members.

Thirdly, support for the subregional organization IGAD and the African Union in their decisions on Somalia would be most helpful. Given their proximity to, knowledge of and interest in Somalia, IGAD member States should be recognized as having a leading role on Somali issues.

Fourthly, the time has come for the United Nations to show that it is serious about moving to Somalia. Our temporary presence in Nairobi has lasted 15 years, which is far too long. We can work effectively for peace with the Somalis and address pressing humanitarian needs only if we are close to the victims of famine, violence and myriad abuses. My Office and other leading United Nations agencies, including humanitarian ones, along with concerned diplomats and non-governmental organizations, should move to Mogadishu. The establishment of a green zone, similar to those elsewhere, would facilitate this process.

Fifthly, we must continue to provide support against piracy. The international maritime presence has been a remarkable show of solidarity with Somalis on the part of a large number of nations, and has been effective. The maritime presence should continue,

while support for the establishment of a Somali coastguard is being provided. At the same time, the question of addressing the problems on land, particularly the issue of youth employment, must been taken up as a matter of urgency.

Somalia is indeed a very difficult case, to say the least, but challenges always arise and should not be a reason for inaction. The international community should never surrender its obligation towards the people of Somalia. Effective action is needed now because, if not now, when? If the Council does not act, then who will? We know all too well that all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

People all over the world strive for peace, security and dignity. The people of Somalia are no exception. They have been denied this modest aspiration for the past 20 years. Last year's Security Council visit to Djibouti was a tremendous boost to the region. If the Council can help to restore stability to Somalia, that would go a long way towards elevating further the United Nations reputation in Africa. It seems to me that now is the time for action.

The President: I thank Mr. Ould Abdallah for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lamamra.

Mr. Lamamra (*spoke in French*): Allow me at the outset to thank you, Sir, and the other members of the Council for this opportunity to report on the African Union Commission's assessment of the situation in and prospects for Somalia. I particularly appreciate the privilege of participating in the Security Council's consideration of this item under your presidency, Sir. Your personal commitment and Uganda's invaluable contribution to peace and reconciliation in Somalia are recognized and praised here and everywhere.

The situation in Somalia is difficult and volatile, but it is neither desperate nor insurmountable. In the few months since the unity Government, headed by President Sheikh Sharif Sheik Ahmed, has been in existence and functioning, we have seen marked improvements in the country's governance. These improvements reflect a drive for transparency, inclusiveness and responsiveness to the expectations of a people who have been sorely tried by years without a State and by fratricidal hostilities.

The Transitional Federal Institutions, representing broad political movements, have undertaken to work in Somalia to create positive momentum towards a resolution of the crisis. But anti-peace forces inside and outside Somalia have redoubled their violent efforts to destroy the achievements of the peace and national reconciliation processes, supported by Africa and the entire international community as a precious opportunity for Somalia. These forces are working relentlessly to ensure that Somalia is inescapably associated with terrorism, piracy, endemic instability and threats to itself as well as to neighbours near and far.

The African Union's governing bodies, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Peace and Security Council, have assumed and reaffirmed action-oriented positions in line with all the recommendations put forward by the political leaders of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. These positions and recommendations are well known to the Council and I will not repeat them here. I would, however, like to articulate three key ideas that I feel should be seen as essential by the international community, assuming that failure in Somalia is not an option and that now more than ever is the time for boldness and increased commitment.

First, the strategic stakes of the situation, in their direct impact on international peace and security, ensure that the Somali conflict cannot be dismissed as a simple civil war fed by general dissatisfaction with the distribution of power and wealth in the country. Somalia has become a source of insecurity at a regional level and beyond.

Secondly, the increase, since 12 May 2009, in acts of armed violence against the Transitional Federal Institutions, the nascent National Security Force and the Somali police in Mogadishu is aimed not only at bringing about an unconstitutional change of Government, but at making Somalia a lasting trouble spot and a base of operations for extremist activities that challenge the region and the world as a whole.

Thirdly, the fight waged in legitimate self-defence by the Somali Government and the forces supporting President Sheikh Sharif Sheik Ahmed, on the one hand, and the stabilization work carried out by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), on the other, together form a coherent resistance to a global threat and are helping to defeat it.

Taking these considerations into account, we feel that it is in the natural order of things that the international community, mobilized in solidarity and faced with the challenges that the anti-peace forces in Somalia pose to its core values, should decide on and implement bold and innovative measures. Beyond the ongoing strengthening of AMISOM and the expeditious build-up of the Somali National Security Force, it is important that Somalia's air space and territorial waters not be open to the free passage of weapons, munitions and foreign combatants.

It is equally important that the struggle not be waged only where the anti-peace forces take the initiative, in this case the capital, Mogadishu, which is being increasingly emptied of its civilian population. The authority of the State and of the Government of President Ahmed should be gradually extended to other parts of the country, beginning with those presenting distinctive characteristics in operational as well as strategic terms, and indeed in spiritual and symbolic terms, too.

The African Union and the United Nations are developing a lasting partnership in Somalia that heralds a qualitative step forward in the design of peacekeeping operations whose objective aims determine their form and composition. The deployment of a sixth battalion, from Burundi, with Algerian air assets and the establishment of a United Nations logistics support module, are further encouraging developments.

The conditions are thus gradually being created to enable the United Nations to assume directly the large share of responsibilities that naturally fall to it in asserting the presence of the international community in Somalia, including taking over from a fully operational AMISOM. From this standpoint, upgrading the level and effectiveness of regional and international institutions' representation in Somalia would be a timely step in the right direction.

The African Union, which welcomes the promising work it is doing in Somalia with the United Nations and the team headed by Special Representative Ould Abdallah, alongside the Department of Field Support, as well as the valuable assistance of its international partners, expresses the hope that this struggle for peace will be crowned with the success it deserves.

The President: I thank Mr. Lamamra for his statement.

I now give the floor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia.

Mr. Omaar (Somalia): First and foremost, Mr. President, I thank you for this opportunity to participate in this discussion on Somalia. I also wish to take this occasion to pay tribute to the Secretary-General and my good friend Ambassador Ould Abdallah for all the efforts and energy he has brought to bear on the situation, and for his leadership over the past two years and more. In the same spirit, I also wish to pay tribute to and to thank the agencies of the United Nations and the international community for their continuing stance, shoulder to shoulder, with the Somali people.

However, as has been said — and we all agree — the issues and the problems of Somalia have to be solved by Somalis. The responsibility lies not only with the Government but with the people of Somalia, wherever they are. The international community has come to our assistance, which we appreciate. I believe we have now assumed the tasks and responsibility for the needs of our country.

What is also clear, we believe, is that the Somali people and the international community have come to a decision that the continuous reinvention of the wheel in the repeated conferences that have taken place in the past has now come to an end. Now is the moment to rebuild an institutional base and an operational State that will bring stability to Somalia. I think that is a very important decision. In partnership, we are now of like minds that this has to work and be put in place so that the State can be rebuilt properly and Somalia can take its place in the international community.

As has been said, our commitment at the political level to peace and reconciliation is neither temporary nor in any way limited. We remain open, willing and ready to incorporate into the Djibouti peace process any and every party that agrees to the re-establishment of the rule of law and is willing to sit across the negotiating table to deliberate on and find a way forward. I believe, as my good friend Ambassador Ould Abdallah has said, that proof of that is the recent agreement with Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a as a new partner in the reconstruction of Somalia.

Similar efforts are taking place within the country as well as within the diaspora Somali community across the world. That dialogue is continuous and will be maintained and sustained. We are committed to

peace and reconciliation as an ongoing process that does not have a time limit.

At the international level, we are very grateful for the support and the position of the African Union and the recent summit held in Libya, which fully took on board the political, diplomatic, military and financial needs of Somalia. We are also grateful for the endorsement by the African Union summit of the proposals that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Somali Government have put to it. That was followed by an IGAD ministerial meeting, which again concluded that, aside from the actions of the Security Council and the United Nations, we in IGAD need to act on a subregional basis. IGAD has also now adopted resolutions and decisions that establish local sanctions on a subregional basis to confront the issue of individuals and entities in IGAD countries that are spoilers of the peace process.

But what has become clear is that, on the military side, the objective of the past two months has been to overthrow the Government, which was the basis of the initial attack in April. That project of Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam has now run out of steam. It has now been concluded, on our side and on their side, that that project to seize power and overthrow the Government cannot and will not come to fruition. It will not succeed as a military operation. That has resulted in a change of tactics, which we first saw in the hostage-taking that has taken place not only in Mogadishu but also in the Northern Frontier District of Kenya, as well as in the impact of the abuse of the institutions and facilities of the United Nations itself. Over and beyond that, we expect that an expanded project of suicide bombings will be undertaken and will come to pass as another tactic of terrorism seeking to destabilize not only the Somali Government but also the international community, which is coming to the aid of Somalia.

In conclusion, our request to the Council is that it view Somalia within the subregional context. The subregion as a whole has been through a 50-year cycle of war — from the Sudan to Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. Our people have suffered 50 years of civil and inter-State wars — in effect, since the 1950s or early 1960s. We believe that Somalia is a key factor for the stability of the subregion. The peace that we seek, and which we believe the Council seeks, is not limited only to Somalia. The peace that we want is subregional peace, and stability in Somalia is a cornerstone of that peace. What happens in Somalia will have an impact on neighbouring countries.

Therefore, the project and partnership that has been established between the international community and the Somali Government and people must succeed, because the impact goes far beyond the borders of Somalia. I believe that the proof of that is the piracy that we have experienced in the past few years. We therefore ask for the Council's assistance and support. The crucial issue now is that of external vested interests that wish to sustain and continue the war in Somalia. I think Somalis are of the mind that we can achieve peace and reconciliation if we can overcome the issue of external interference and external vested interests that wish to sustain the war. I promise the Council that the Government can find a peace and reconciliation process that can be completed among Somalis, if we are given the opportunity and the external door can be closed.

The President: I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Quarrey (United Kingdom): We are grateful to Foreign Minister Omaar, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ould Abdallah and Commissioner Lamamra for their briefings this morning.

It is right that the Security Council remain focused on the situation in Somalia. As we have said before, instability there poses a clear threat to peace and security in the region and beyond. The ongoing violence continues to cause deep and unnecessary suffering for a people who have, as we have heard from each of the briefers this morning, suffered too long already.

Three weeks ago, Ambassador Sawers set out what the United Kingdom sees as the four priority areas for action in addressing the situation in Somalia. The first priority area is to tackle the humanitarian crisis, helping the more than 3 million people in need by supporting the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in delivering basic security, food and health care. The second priority area is to support the political process, specifically the TFG's reconciliation policy, and to build on the Djibouti peace process. The third priority area is to achieve an improved security situation in Mogadishu, working with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the TFG to expand the authority of the latter. The fourth priority

area is to address the ongoing threat from piracy. We need to continue to work to ensure security on Somalia's seas, as well as on land, by tackling both piracy and its root causes.

What we have heard today from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, Commissioner Lamamra, and Minister for Foreign Affairs Omaar confirms that those are the right priorities. As they have made clear, the situation remains extremely fragile.

We are encouraged to hear that progress is being made by the TFG and President Ahmed. We welcome the fact that the Joint Security Committee met in Mogadishu last week for the first time. The Committee should play a key role in ensuring a properly coordinated relationship between those involved in security in Mogadishu.

The long-term solution to Somalia's security, however, remains the development of the Somali security forces. The United Nations Development Programme has done admirable work in training the police, but there is still much to be done to strengthen the joint security forces. Member States must continue to focus on what support can be delivered in this sector.

While the security situation remains fragile, the role of AMISOM in supporting the TFG remains essential. We pay tribute once again to the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for their continuing commitment, and encourage other African Union member States to play a role.

Improved security should create the space for development. We must take advantage of stability in the areas controlled by the TFG to show that it can deliver essential services and economic benefits to the Somali people. To this end, we encourage the TFG to set out its needs and the United Nations and the international community to respond accordingly.

Finally, we look forward to hearing Ambassador Heller's report later this morning on the work of the sanctions Committee. The Monitoring Group's report sets out clear evidence that individuals and entities are actively supporting and arming opposition groups and seeking to undermine the TFG. Halting the illegal flow of weapons and ammunition to rebel groups in Somalia is an essential part of supporting the TFG and the peace process. The Council should act quickly and decisively in agreeing measures against those working against peace in Somalia.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah for his very valuable briefing and his great efforts to help the Somali people solve their problems and restore peace in the country. I would also like to thank Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, for his comprehensive briefing on the Union's position on this issue. I would also like to welcome Mr. Omaar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, and thank him for his statement.

My country is very concerned about the use of force and violence to overthrow the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Somalia at a time when the Government has tirelessly sought to reach out to the armed opposition groups and convince them to renounce violence and participate in the Government. It has held consultations with the leaders of tribes, sheikhs and religious leaders, and made tangible progress in the transition process. Its actions have been welcomed by the Somali people.

The international community should step up its financial and political support for the Government of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed so that it can extend its authority over the entire territory of the country. We also welcome the commitment of the Government of the Somali President to establish a broad-based administration in accordance with the agreement signed with Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a and some elements of Hizbul Islam.

We express our concern over reports of the presence of foreign elements in the armed opposition groups. These elements are seeking to further their own objectives and agendas, and their presence will prolong the conflict in the country.

We call on the international community to respond to the appeals launched by the African Union at its meeting in Sirte early this month for the implementation of the commitments undertaken at the Doha conference, and by the International Contact Group at its meetings in Brussels and Rome for support to the Somali Government. We call on States that are able to do so to support and promote the African Union Mission in Somalia through the Trust Fund and to support African States that are willing to provide

troops so that the Mission can reach its authorized strength of 8,000 as quickly as possible.

I must point out here that the Governments of Uganda and Burundi are to be commended for the unflagging sacrifices they have made to bring security and peace to the Somali people. We hope that they will accelerate the process to transform the African Union Mission in Somalia into a United Nations Mission in Somalia.

With respect to piracy off the Somali coast, we would like to express our gratitude to the States Members of the United Nations and the regional organizations that have undertaken to protect ships and helped the World Food Programme, the United Nations and humanitarian institutions and agencies to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. At the same time, we believe that addressing the issue of piracy in the long term will require a comprehensive approach that seeks to end the conflict, restore stability, support the ability of the Somali Government to extend its authority over the entire territory, including its coasts, and exploit and protect sustainable sources of income, particularly living marine resources, which for many years have been exposed to plunder by foreign companies through illegal fishing in Somali territorial waters.

At the humanitarian level, we note that intensifying acts of violence over the past three months have led to the very serious deterioration of the humanitarian situation. At least 250 civilians have been killed, hundreds injured and 204,000 displaced from the capital, Mogadishu. The number of persons emigrating to Yemen or otherwise becoming refugees during the first quarter of this year rose by 30 per cent compared to the first quarter of last year.

We call on all States to continue to support humanitarian assistance and reconstruction priority programmes. In this context, we recall that the World Food Programme still needs $136 million to feed more than 3 million individuals in all parts of Somalia. We hope that the international community will provide the necessary contributions to that end. In that connection, we commend the efforts of those providing humanitarian assistance, who are carrying out their responsibilities in an environment increasingly fraught with risk.

Finally, we are very concerned at the information contained in the report regarding the recruitment of children younger than 18 and their use in armed confrontations. We call on those responsible to put an end to that practice and to permit those children to return to their families as soon as possible.

Mr. Dolgov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, for his briefing on the situation in Somalia. While we understand his hopes for positive developments in that situation, the overall picture is extremely alarming. We listened closely to the statements made by African Union Commissioner Lamamra and Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Omaar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia.

We are gravely concerned at the ongoing instability in Somalia, including widespread attacks, killings and other acts of violence, as well as illegal acts committed against United Nations facilities in the country. The continuing attacks against the positions of Government forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are intended to undermine the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government to effectively govern the country. Under these circumstances, there is a need to mobilize the efforts of Somalis themselves as well as those of the international community to strengthen the central Government's capacities, particularly in the area of security.

Unfortunately, as the security situation remains totally unacceptable and unsatisfactory, it is now difficult to talk realistically about the possibility of expanding the United Nations presence on the ground in Somalia. We must all strive towards that goal, but the key factor is to ensure appropriate security conditions.

There is no alternative to sustainable peace and national reconciliation in Somalia on the basis of the Djibouti peace process. We continue to support the efforts of President Ahmed and the Government to that end. We believe that providing broad support for the Somali Government by assisting the countries of the African Union will lay the foundation necessary for the long-term recovery and rehabilitation in Somalia. We call on all countries in the region to provide all forms of assistance to Somalia and not to allow foreign mercenaries, combatants or weapons to be brought into the country, in violation of the sanctions regime established by the Security Council.

We commend the role played by the African Union Mission in bringing about stability, strengthening the security sector and helping to promote the political process. The Mission's activities are extremely important, and we believe that it must have adequate staffing, equipment and other types of support.

We agree with the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General regarding the deterioration in the humanitarian and human rights situation, in particular with regard to the most vulnerable groups in the population. Assistance to Somalia must be comprehensive and must encompass socio-economic development. Here, the most important tasks are ensuring sustainable economic recovery and resolving the problem of unemployment. However, I must reiterate once again that none of these tasks can be carried out satisfactorily without a reliable stabilization of the security situation, which is key to resolving all the political, socio-economic and humanitarian problems in Somalia.

We cannot but agree with the assessments made in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/373) and by Mr. Ould Abdallah with regard to the ongoing destabilizing factor of piracy off the coast of Somalia. We note the robust efforts to ensure security off the coast and to provide assistance to the coastguard. Another important task is creating the legal infrastructure necessary for the prosecution of persons involved in piracy. Here, assistance by legal institutions in neighbouring countries could play a very important role. Because the current conditions in Somalia make it impossible to eradicate this phenomenon, international cooperation must be intensified to combat piracy and eradicate its infrastructure and its sources of financial support.

Russia will continue to take an active part in international anti-piracy cooperation and in the overall effort to assist in the long-term stabilization of Somalia.

Mr. Somdah (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): Permit me at the outset to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia and to thank him for his statement. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, and African Union Commissioner Lamamra for their briefings, which provided updated information on the Djibouti peace process and the difficult security situation on the ground in Somalia.

At the political level, my delegation welcomes the continuing activities of the Government and the parliament in Mogadishu despite the difficult security situation, as well as the Government's ongoing policy of openness, demonstrated by the visits made by President Ahmed. We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the Djibouti agreement, which is the only framework for a political settlement of the Somali crisis. We commend the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government to establish contacts with opposition groups that are not yet part of the Djibouti reconciliation process.

In particular, we welcome the signing on 21 June of a declaration of political, security, humanitarian and development cooperation with the group Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a. Burkina Faso believes that that is the most significant success of the policy of inclusive dialogue pursued by President Ahmed since his election. That is why we encourage the Government to continue the consultations begun with influential clan leaders, elders and clerics in order to expand the base of support for the stabilization of Somalia.

With respect to security, Burkina Faso once again firmly condemns targeted killings and attacks against Government forces by illegal armed groups supported by foreign elements. These attacks, which began in early May, have already claimed many civilian victims and have included the killing of the Minister of the Interior; they must cease immediately. We call on all States of the region, without exception, to scrupulously respect the arms embargo and to refrain from providing military, logistical or any other kind of support to illegal armed groups that are active in Somalia, as required by the relevant resolutions and statements of the Security Council. Moreover, we are very concerned by reports that the group Al-Shabaab continues to enlist young people and children for combat.

Burkina Faso reaffirms its unreserved support for the Government of President Ahmed as the legitimate Somali authority. We also reaffirm our support for the position adopted by the African Union (AU) and the appeal contained in the AU Peace and Security Council communiqué of 15 June 2009, which was confirmed in a decision by the African Union Conference of Heads of State and Government held from 1 to 3 July 2009. In particular, we think that the request that a no-fly zone be imposed around certain airports merits immediate follow-up.

My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for its support and its ongoing solidarity with the people and the Government of Somalia and encourages it to continue its support for development and for institutional capacity-building in the country. We thank in particular Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, who continues in spite of difficulties to show unequalled determination and commitment.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the confirmation of a significant portion of the $213 million pledged during the international donors conference held in Brussels on 22 and 23 April 2009. The start of training for new Somali police officers, which was undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme on the basis of those pledges, is encouraging. We hope that this activity will be continued and expanded in accordance with the programme that has been planned.

However, at this stage, my delegation would like to reiterate its position that the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation seems to be the only option — and that of last resort — for stabilizing Somalia. Until the Security Council takes a stand on this option, my delegation encourages the Secretariat to continue its support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), in accordance with resolutions 1863 (2009) and 1872 (2009).

We thank Uganda and Burundi for their significant ongoing efforts, and, given the seriousness of this situation, we invite the countries that have already promised troops for AMISOM to fulfil their promises as quickly as possible in order to strengthen the African force. Burkina Faso reaffirms its firm commitment to the integrity and security of the African force and thus firmly condemns any attack against AMISOM.

Finally, Burkina Faso believes in a return to peace and stability in Somalia and invites the international community to maintain and to strengthen its support for that country in accordance with the recommendations of the African Union and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development.

Mr. Wolff (United States of America): Let me first thank Special Representative Ould Abdallah for his informative update on the situation in Somalia and for his critical work of monitoring and reporting under often dangerous conditions. Let me also welcome Foreign Minister Omaar and African Union Commissioner Lamamra back to the Council and thank them for their informative statements.

The United States condemns in the strongest terms the continuing military offensives against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, which are designed to overthrow the TFG's legitimate authority by force. The United States particularly condemns the 19 July raids by Al-Shabaab on — and forced closure of — the offices of the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Safety and Security and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia in Wajid and Baidoa, during which communications equipment, automobiles and supplies were looted, as well as its 17 May raid on the UNICEF compound in Jowhar town; the compound remains occupied by the militia.

We are very concerned by reports that Al-Shabaab is recruiting seasoned fighters from abroad and collaborating with Al-Qaida to remove the TFG. Al-Shabaab and other extremists have ratcheted up bomb attacks and targeted assassinations to spread fear in an attempt to intimidate the Somali people into submission. There are troublesome reports not only of recent violence by extremists in Mogadishu but also of renewed fighting in the central regions of Somalia. And in its drive to forcibly gain power, Al-Shabaab has even recruited Somali children to take up arms.

We second the Special Representative's call to donors for urgent military and financial support to the TFG and AMISOM. Supporting AMISOM should be central to the international community's strategy of stabilizing Mogadishu and supporting the Somali peace process. We thank AMISOM for its brave and critical work in the face of continuing danger, and my Government urges donors to fulfil the pledges made at the April security conference in Brussels to address the continuing threat to regional stability posed by extremists.

Currently, AMISOM is four battalions short of its mandated strength of nine infantry battalions, or a little over half of its mandated strength of 8,000 troops. The United States welcomes the pledges made by Sierra Leone and Malawi to contribute one battalion each to AMISOM and thanks Uganda and Burundi for their roles, in particular Burundi for the steps it is taking to contribute a third battalion to help strengthen AMISOM's capacity.

We are deeply concerned about the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, including that of the estimated 200,000 people who had recently returned to Mogadishu only to again be displaced when the fighting began anew. The violence makes distributing critical food and other humanitarian assistance to the 3.2 million Somalis who require it more challenging and sometimes impossible.

The United States deplores violence against humanitarian agencies and staff, in particular Al-Shabaab's 17 May raid on the UNICEF compound, which resulted in the destruction of thousands of doses of vaccines intended for Somali women and children and nutritional supplements intended for the most vulnerable women and children.

The United States is committed to addressing the humanitarian situation and has provided nearly $149 million in food and non-food emergency assistance since the start of our current fiscal year. We urge the international community to contribute to the consolidated appeal for Somalia, which, as of 30 June, covers only 40 per cent of the $984 million requested.

In spite of these challenges, the United States is encouraged by President Sharif's continuing efforts to reach out to opposition groups that wish to join the national reconciliation process, and we welcome the TFG's declaration of cooperation with the Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a. We also welcome the TFG's institution-building efforts and the steps taken to hold parliamentary and cabinet sessions despite increasing attacks in Mogadishu.

On piracy, we are concerned by reports from the International Maritime Bureau of an exponential increase in activity as well as the reports of the use of more sophisticated weapons. We must continue to prosecute suspected pirates, as piracy is without a question a symptom of, as well as a contributing factor to, the instability and insecurity in Somalia. Without stability in Somalia, there can be no durable resolution of the piracy problem. Nonetheless, my Government believes that the paying of ransom simply perpetuates piracy. The United States does not offer concessions to hostage-takers, whether they are driven by political or financial motives, and we encourage other States to take a similar position.

Finally, we remain deeply concerned about Eritrea's actions in the region, particularly in Somalia. The Monitoring Group has noted in its reports that Eritrea has provided funding, weapons and training to armed insurgents in Somalia. Like others here, the United States has repeatedly stated that we remain willing to engage the Eritrean Government should it end its destabilizing activities in the Horn of Africa and take steps towards improved regional relations. Unfortunately, Eritrea has thus far refused these offers, and the window is rapidly closing.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): I should first like to thank Mr. Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing and for his patient efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia under very difficult circumstances. We are also grateful for the briefing by Commissioner Lamamra and the important message he brought us from the African Union Commission. We are further grateful for the briefing by Mr. Omaar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia. It is useful and helpful to have him here again to brief the members of the Council directly.

Austria wishes to reiterate its full support for the Djibouti peace process and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). We welcome the continued efforts to reach out to opposition groups. The Djibouti peace agreement constitutes the only viable and legitimate framework for achieving lasting peace in Somalia. We therefore urge all parties in Somalia to join the Djibouti process and its structures.

We condemn the attempts of extremists to overthrow the TFG and the raiding and looting of United Nations offices in Somalia. We are deeply worried by reports of support to the insurgents from outside Somalia, and wish once again to reiterate that, from our point of view, this is also an issue in which the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) can play an important role.

We note the deep concern expressed by the heads of State and Government of the African Union during their recent summit in Sirte concerning arms supplies to insurgent groups in Somalia. We believe that this is an issue to which the Council should give careful consideration.

We believe that three key elements are vital to the stabilization of the situation in Somalia: support to the TFG, support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and support to the reconciliation process. Uganda and Burundi, as countries contributing troops to AMISOM, are a crucial factor in restoring stability to Somalia. We are also grateful for the pledges that

have been made by other African countries, including Sierra Leone and Malawi. It would seem that the current mandate of AMISOM allows sufficient flexibility. However, AMISOM needs to reach its mandated strength, as well as better equipment.

In that context, on Monday members of the European Union, including Austria, agreed at the ministerial level to further step up the Union's engagement in Somalia. The European Union will increase its support to the TFG and AMISOM, and explore additional support for the security sector and regional maritime capabilities. An exploratory mission will be going to Somalia in the middle of August.

Concerning piracy off the coast of Somalia, Austria would like to underline that the efforts of a great number of international actors, including the European Union through its Operation Atalanta, to curb piracy off the Horn of Africa cannot meet with lasting success without addressing the root causes and the issue of accountability. We are very grateful for the efforts of the Secretariat and Under-Secretary-General O'Brien to deal with the issue of accountability.

We condemn the widespread violations and abuses by insurgents, extrajudicial and arbitrary executions, arrests and torture as practised by Al-Shabaab. We are particularly worried about reports of the use of civilians as human shields and of indiscriminate attacks that have led to numerous civilian casualties. As pointed out by the Secretary-General, these abuses might constitute war crimes, and those responsible must be held to account.

We condemn the recruitment of children by insurgent groups and demand their immediate release. In this regard, we would like to recall the conclusions concerning Somalia reached last year by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. Among the recommendations presented in the conclusions, we would like specifically to highlight the encouragement to AMISOM and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia to incorporate child protection advisers into their staff, and to the TFG to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

We are very concerned about the dramatic humanitarian situation in Somalia. We have seen a surge in the numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) over the past two months. More than 200,000 people have fled Mogadishu alone, increasing the number of IDPs in the country to over 1.2 million. We commend the United Nations intention to continue its work in Somalia, notwithstanding the difficulties that it has faced in very recent days.

I would ask the Special Representative to convey our expressions of support and esteem to his staff, to his partners outside the United Nations system, and to all those who dedicate their work to achieving stability, peace and security in Somalia.

Mr. Takasu (Japan): I, too, would like to thank Mr. Ould Abdallah for his very helpful briefing this morning. I am also grateful to Mr. Lamamra and Mr. Omaar for their very useful statements.

I should like briefly to discuss four issues. First, Japan shares the serious concern about the fragile security situation as a result of continuing attacks against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) by rebel groups, particularly since the Security Council took up the issue of Somalia earlier this month. A series of attacks have taken place, including violence against humanitarian workers, attacks on United Nations offices and abductions of French personnel. We strongly condemn these acts of violence and call for the immediate release of the hostages.

At the same time, we are heartened by the active efforts of the TFG to maintain security, including by regaining control over Beledweyne. Every possible support should be provided to the TFG. The ongoing efforts of the TFG to promote the political process are also commendable. We hope that opposition groups will follow the example of Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a and join in the Djibouti peace process.

Secondly, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) plays an indispensable role in support of the TFG in protecting Mogadishu and assisting the Government. It is essential to strengthen the activities of AMISOM. We are grateful to the troop-contributing countries Burundi and Uganda for their contributions. We should extend every support to build up AMISOM to the full troop level of 8,000. We therefore sincerely hope that the pledges of additional troops by several countries will materialize as early as possible. However, it has been a major challenge in the current security situation to deliver the logistical support package to AMISOM in a timely fashion. We commend the untiring efforts of the Secretariat, particularly the

Department of Field Support, and urge that these good efforts be continued.

The international community must enhance its support to the TFG. The instability in Somalia is caused by internal as well as external factors. It is essential to cut off external military and economic assistance to the rebel groups. The countries in the region need to come together to assist the TFG.

The Somalia sanctions Committee is currently engaged in appropriate measures to implement resolution 1844 (2008). It is our belief that the effectiveness of these measures must be carefully considered. We are ready to take part in the discussion in the Committee to determine the most appropriate course of action.

My third point concerns the capacity-building of the TFG. Building the capacity of the Somali security forces and police is critically important, particularly in the northern and north-eastern regions, where the security situation is relatively calm. The effort to define the Somali national security strategy should be further promoted with the support of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).

Japan welcomes international support for the programme to recruit and train 10,000 Somalia Police Force personnel by June 2010. The programme needs to be implemented through strong coordination among UNPOS, the United Nations Development Programme and AMISOM. Most importantly, however, coordination among donor countries is essential. Japan, for its part, will disburse $9 million to the Trust Fund for AMISOM, through which we support the training of the Somalia Police Force.

My fourth point concerns piracy. Piracy continues to pose a threat to the stability in the region and to orderly international commerce. The ongoing concerted efforts of the international community are absolutely essential to addressing piracy off the coast of Somalia. Japan has been actively engaged in such efforts by providing two destroyers and two P-3C maritime patrol aircraft. In our Parliament, a new law has been enacted on the penalization of acts of piracy and measures against acts of piracy. Through that effort, we can now protect foreign vessels.

It is Japan's turn to chair the fourth plenary meeting of the Contact Group on Somali Piracy on 10 September here at Headquarters. A longer-term solution will require restoring stability and governance on land in Somalia. Measures on land are therefore important from that point of view. Japan welcomes the discussion that is now under way to establish a working group, within the Contact Group framework, on land-based issues. The programme of the United Nations country team and UNPOS to establish a framework document to improve standards of living along the coast and in the hinterland of Somalia are also useful for the purpose of combating piracy. Japan has provided assistance to those programmes. We hope that the coordinated efforts of the international community will also have a positive influence on the security situation on land.

Mr. Lacroix (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, my delegation would like to thank Mr. Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing, and Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Omaar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and Ambassador Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, for their presentations.

First of all, I would like briefly to comment on the situation that has been described. As Minister Omaar pointed out, it is now clear that the radical groups cannot overthrow the Government militarily, but that they are continuing their attacks nevertheless and creating a very detrimental situation of insecurity and violence.

My delegation notes with concern that, since the attack of the rebel groups on 7 May, fighting is continuing in the countryside and in Mogadishu. The day before yesterday seven civilians were killed in the capital, Al-Shabaab fired a mortar at a parliament session, and foreign fighters continue to fight within the ranks of the fundamentalists. Of course, every day that the situation continues, the suffering of the population increases. Over 3 million people now depend on humanitarian aid, while the attacks launched by Al-Shabaab on United Nations agencies, which we strongly condemn, are hampering United Nations activity. Moreover, more and more people who have lost hope are trying to reach Yemen across the Gulf of Aden aboard smugglers' boats. Since the beginning of the year, 30,000 people have succeeded and, unfortunately, 300 have died in that attempt.

In that context, as many speakers before me have said, the international community has a very important

role to play in helping the Transitional Federal Government to change the situation in its favour. The promises made in April at the Brussels conference must be kept. I recall that the European Commission is to provide €60 million to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and €13 million to the Rule of Law and Security Programme. We have taken careful note of the information in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/373) on the logistic support package to AMISOM. It is of course essential that we give the soldiers our full support and remain mindful of their needs.

More specifically, my delegation has identified four tracks for action by the international community. First, extending concrete support to the Somali National Security Force is essential. This very morning, France began to train Somali troops, chosen by the Transitional Federal Government, in Djibouti. Djibouti, for its part, is doing the same. The European Union is considering the possibility of establishing a security force. At the most recent meeting of their General Affairs and External Relations Council, the ministers for foreign affairs of the European Union decided to send an exploratory mission to the region in August.

Secondly, it is vital that we maintain and strengthen our support to AMISOM, and my delegation pays tribute to the action of Uganda and Burundi in that regard. For its part, France contributed to establishing four of the AMISOM contingents that, in a recent sortie, demonstrated their ability to help the Transitional Federal Government not only to hold its positions, but to push back the extremist fighters. We welcome the prospect of the imminent deployment of a sixth battalion, provided by Burundi.

Thirdly, my delegation encourages the United Nations to continue, as it is bravely doing, its assistance activities, in spite of the dangers. The European Union has extended Operation Atalanta by a year. Counter-piracy operations are crucial, particularly to protect the World Food Programme convoys, and we would not underestimate the risk that the attacks may resume in strength once the weather is again favourable to the pirates. I recall that, at the most recent meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council, the European Union reiterated its willingness to develop a comprehensive approach towards Somalia in which the fight against piracy is an important component.

Lastly, I would like to underscore the importance of the political dialogue. The Transitional Federal Government signed a reconciliation agreement with the Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a group a month ago. I am delighted by the spirit of openness shown by Minister Omaar in his statement, and France encourages the Transitional Federal Government to continue in that direction.

I would now like to turn briefly to the issue of sanctions. France has begun to actively engage in the discussions taking place within the Somali sanctions committee. We are convinced that, under resolution 1844 (2008), the Security Council can provide a clear, realistic and effective response to the situation in the Horn of Africa. However, we must also take fully into account the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea.

In conclusion, I wish to reassure the Special Representative of the Secretary-General that we fully support his efforts and that, in this delicate situation, his role as coordinator of the activities of the United Nations and the international community is as necessary as ever. Naturally, we support the action of the African Union and welcome the involvement of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam): I, too, would like to thank Mr. Ould Abdallah for his briefing. I welcome the participation in the Council's meeting today of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, and I thank them for their presentations.

My delegation is pleased to note the political progress achieved under the Djibouti agreement, as reflected in the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2009/373). We commend and support the continued efforts undertaken by President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed to encourage the parties that are still outside the Djibouti agreement to join the national reconciliation process to rebuild their war-torn country. We urge all groups that have yet to lay down their arms and join the peace and reconciliation process to do so.

Despite those encouraging political developments, the security situation in Somalia remains deeply troubling. Attacks by insurgent groups, most notably Al-Shabaab, against the Transitional Federal Government and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in and around Mogadishu have intensified.

We strongly condemn the attempts by those groups to overthrow the legally constituted and internationally recognized Government by force and their recent attacks against the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia.

We are particularly concerned about the extremely alarming humanitarian situation in Somalia, with over 1 million people internally displaced and more than 3 million on the verge of starvation.

As the continued fighting has worsened the humanitarian crisis, there is an urgent need for immediate and vigorous international support for the TFG's endeavours to repel the onslaught of the extremist forces that are intent on destroying the Djibouti peace process and spoiling efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia through political reconciliation.

My delegation supports the Secretary-General's call for Member States and regional organizations to expedite contributions to the United Nations trust funds as well as the bilateral support pledged at the Brussels donors conference, in order to provide the TFG with sufficient assistance to rebuild Somalia's security institutions and train its security forces.

We support the strengthening of AMISOM to enable it to withstand insurgent attacks. We greatly appreciate the efforts made by the Governments of Uganda and Burundi in contributing to the maintenance of security in Mogadishu, and we note with pleasure that some other African Union countries have pledged to contribute troops to AMISOM.

Significant progress has been achieved by the international community in addressing the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The cooperation and coordination exhibited by Member States in the fight against piracy in the region is proving effective. However, we still believe that, in the long run, the scourge of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia will be resolved thoroughly only through an integrated approach that addresses the conflict, the lack of governance and the absence of sustainable livelihoods on land in Somalia.

Stabilizing Somalia and delivering a negotiated peace settlement that addresses the root causes of the conflict requires closer cooperation and a more effective partnership among the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the League of Arab States in addressing the challenges that confront Somalia and bringing about lasting peace and security in the region. We continue to support a strong role for the United Nations in strengthening this cooperation and partnership, with a view to assisting the Government and the people of Somalia in bringing peace, security and stability to their country. We could not agree more with what has been said by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia: that, ultimately, the issues facing Somalia will have to be resolved by Somalis.

Mr. Urbina (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by thanking Mr. Ould Abdallah for his briefing, and I thank the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Lamamra, for his statement. I also welcome the statement made by the Somali Foreign Minister.

This Council has of late been reviewing the situation in Somalia and the challenges facing the Transitional Federal Government and the international community there. We voice our concern at the resurgence of violence in Somalia and the consequent worsening of the humanitarian situation, the growing numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons and the climate of instability in the region. This urgent situation demands the strengthening of Somalia's security institutions and of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which are essential components in the stabilization of the country.

The international community must fulfil the commitments made at the Brussels donors conference and contribute to the United Nations trust fund set up for this purpose. Indifference on the part of the international community will only strengthen the position of the rebel groups, which, as the report of the Monitoring Group states, are already benefiting from arms flows and financial support from other countries, including countries of the region, which are seeking to undermine international peace and security.

We understand that the situation in Somalia can only be improved on the basis of action by the Somalis themselves. We reaffirm our support for the Transitional Federal Government and for its efforts to promote national reconciliation through inclusive negotiations within the Djibouti peace process. We also

salute Special Representative Ould Abdallah for his determined endeavours to move the political process forward.

We also welcome the recent decision of the African Union to bring the military and police components of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) up to the mandated number of personnel. We acknowledge the contributions of the Governments of Burundi and Uganda to the Mission and welcome the pledges of additional battalions from Sierra Leone and Malawi.

The worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia is a cause of great concern to my delegation. We condemn the attacks on civilian populations, as well as the obstacles placed in the way of free access to humanitarian assistance for the more than 3 million people who depend on it. An area of special concern for Costa Rica is the situation of the thousands of children who are victims of forcible recruitment by opposition rebel groups, as well as the killings and acts of mutilation and sexual and gender-based violence. The Security Council must remain vigilant with regard to these atrocious acts against the most defenceless populations in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

My delegation has noted the progress made in combating piracy off the Somali coast, and we particularly welcome the impact of this progress on access to humanitarian assistance. We are, however, concerned by reports that the pirates are using increasingly sophisticated strategies in their attacks on vessels. It is therefore essential to work immediately to resolve problems of logistics and of bringing to justice the pirates that are still operating, while we work to strengthen the Somali State and thus to eliminate the causes that fuel piracy.

Finally, Costa Rica reaffirms its support for the Secretary-General's political strategy for Somalia, with its three-stage approach to attain the goals needed to achieve security in the country. We look forward to seeing soon the results of the assistance provided by the United Nations Political Office for Somalia to the Transitional Federal Government, especially in the development of a national security strategy.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful for the valuable information provided by Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia. We appreciate his commendable work and commitment in a very complex situation presenting a major challenge to the international community. We also welcome the presence and the message of Mr. Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union. And we welcome, too, the presence of Mr. Omaar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia; we listened attentively to his message.

Mexico recognizes the significant efforts of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia as it works to stabilize the country. We also appreciate the work of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the commitment shown by the Governments of Uganda and Burundi in support of peace and the institutions of governance. We hope that the reinforcements announced by other members of the African Union will speedily complete the deployment of AMISOM, and that the conditions necessary for the achievement of the political, security and humanitarian goals of its mandate will be created.

In the face of the resurgence of confrontation in the capital between forces of the Transitional Federal Government and insurgent groups, Mexico reiterates that, in order to lay a foundation for sustainable peace, there must be simultaneous progress in three mutually reinforcing areas: the political sphere, security and development.

We acknowledge the political progress that has been made, in particular the interest of the Transitional Federal Government in seeking agreements with more moderate insurgent groups that remain outside the Djibouti reconciliation process. The fact that certain groups have jointed the peace process is a positive achievement. Another positive development, to which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General referred, was the recent signing of the joint declaration with one of those groups to cooperate on security, development, political and humanitarian issues.

Moreover, we support the steps taken by the Government of Somalia to develop the country, in particular the implementation, with the assistance of the African Union Mission in Somalia and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, of the Transition Plan for Somalia in such areas as the strengthening of Somalia's National Security Force and police, as well as the efforts made with regard to transparency and accountability.

Mexico reiterates its great concern over the deterioration in security conditions for United Nations staff and humanitarian personnel, which has had a direct impact on the provision of assistance to the civilian population. It is unacceptable, that, confronted by violence, attacks and plundering, some funds, programmes and agencies, such as the World Food Programme and UNICEF, have found it necessary to suspend their work to distribute food and provide health services.

Mexico believes that it is essential to address the humanitarian situation and to reiterate the obligation of States always to observe and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, including their fundamental responsibility to take every step necessary to guarantee the protection of civilians. In that regard, it is essential to ensure the presence on the ground of the United Nations and humanitarian organizations. In the current circumstances, safe access and the delivery of humanitarian assistance are the only real option for meeting the most basic needs of the population, including internally displaced persons, refugees and, above all, members of the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children. We also call on the parties to the conflict to prevent and halt the recruitment of children.

Given the critical prevailing situation, it is a matter of priority, as we have learned from the briefings we have heard today, to establish minimal security conditions on the ground and to ensure an environment of sustainable security. Implementing the gradual approach that we endorsed in resolution 1872 (2009) depends, first and foremost, on safeguarding the survival of the current Government, the security of its leading officials and the continued and growing presence of the United Nations throughout the country. We are convinced that establishing a security zone on Somali territory and protecting strategic infrastructure, such as maritime ports, are essential steps in laying the foundations for the functioning of national institutions and the international presence. As the Special Representative of the Secretary-General has rightly said, insecurity has now become a source of income and power.

In addition, we believe it important for the Security Council to take into account the African Union's call to establish a no-fly zone and a blockade of Somali ports to prevent the entry of foreign mercenaries and weapons into the country, as well as to consider appropriate measures with regard to Eritrea in order to address that country's support for insurgents, which contributes to Somalia's ongoing instability.

Acts of piracy have increased during 2009, including a total of 29 successful hijackings of vessels through the month of June. Mexico commends the decision of the Council of the European Union to expand the mandate of Operation Atalanta. We welcome the decision of NATO to expand its operations in the region. We also support the proposals of the Secretary-General to establish an additional working group within the Contact Group to consider ways to combat piracy on land, promote coordination of efforts between States and the Government of Somalia, and strengthen Somalia's coastguard capacity and its judicial system in order to prosecute alleged pirates.

Lastly, in its capacity as Chair of the Somalia Sanctions Committee, Mexico urges countries of the region and the entire international community to cooperate with the Committee's efforts with regard to the arms embargo and the political, logistical and financial support enjoyed by armed groups in Somalia. In that connection, we ask for resolute support and full cooperation with the Committee's monitoring group to enable it to fulfil its mandated functions. We trust that timely action by the Committee to implement resolution 1844 (2008) will become a fundamental component of a coordinated regional approach to creating the stability that the country so desperately needs.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): We would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, for his comprehensive briefing. We would also like to thank Foreign Minister of Somalia Mohamed Omaar and African Union Commissioner Lamamra for their statements. We also welcome the report (S/2009/373) of the Secretary-General.

Today's meeting on Somalia, the second in the month of July, is a testament to the importance that the Council attaches to developments in Somalia in particular, and to peace and stability in the Horn of Africa in general. Somalia is at a very delicate point. Developments on the ground have not yet reached the irreversible stage, insofar as the establishment of the authority of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in and around the capital is concerned.

We welcome the open-door policy pursued by the TFG vis-à-vis opposition groups. We should insist in our call to all groups in and outside Somalia that there

is no military solution to the Somali question and that the Djibouti peace process is the only road towards a peaceful future. Turkey fully supports the Transitional Federal Government as the only legitimate authority in Somalia. We reiterated that support to President Sheikh Sharif Sheik Ahmed during his visit to Turkey last April.

We commend the crucial role played by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and express our gratitude to the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for their invaluable contributions to the Mission. We encourage other African Union member States to follow suit. Undoubtedly, AMISOM's technical capacity should also be bolstered so that it can effectively implement its mandate. To that end, the expeditious deployment of the logistics support package by the United Nations will be vital.

Equally important is the early transfer of funds pledged to AMISOM at the Brussels donors' conference in April. I would like to say that Turkey has already transferred half of its pledge to AMISOM. The other part of our pledge, for the restructuring of the transitional security institutions in Somalia, has also been made available. As we have indicated on various occasions, Turkey is prepared to train AMISOM peacekeepers and Somali police officers in Turkey, in cooperation with the United Nations.

We welcome the recent meeting in Mogadishu of Somalia's Joint Security Committee. As Special Representative Ould Abdallah has said, the revitalization of the Committee marks an important step towards reforming and improving security in Somalia.

We are closely following the Secretariat's work on the plan for a future United Nations peacekeeping operation to follow AMISOM, subject to a further decision of the Security Council. In that regard, we look forward to the report of the Secretary-General to be issued in September 2009. We hope that the visit to Mogadishu by a team from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations takes place in advance of that report, as planned.

Turkey fully supports the three-track approach of the Secretary-General, as endorsed in resolution 1872 (2009).

We are also concerned about the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia as a consequence of intensified fighting. It is alarming to learn from the report of the Secretary-General that some instances amount to war crimes under international humanitarian law. Here, the effective implementation of sanctions on Somalia and the importance of preventing the entry of foreign fighters into its territory come into the picture.

As for international efforts to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, I am pleased to report that Turkey's contribution to those efforts, with the provision of two frigates, continues. Moreover, we are actively taking part in the work of the International Contact Group on Somalia and are closely cooperating with countries of the region in that context.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): I too would like to join others in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, for presenting the most recent report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2009/373), which we welcome. I would also like to welcome African Union Commissioner Lamamra and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Mr. Omaar, and to thank them for their presentations today. My delegation would also like to express its full appreciation to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia for his tireless efforts and his valuable contribution in promoting dialogue and reconciliation in Somalia.

Since we had an opportunity on 9 July to discuss the situation in Somalia (see S/PV.6158), my delegation would like to make a couple of brief points.

First, we note and express our concern about the ongoing dire security situation on the ground. In that context, we reiterate our full support for the Transitional Federal Government and President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. We commend their determination and their action towards a more inclusive political process and genuine national reconciliation, and we welcome recent positive political developments in that respect, which have already been mentioned today.

We add our voice to the calls for all Somali stakeholders to opt for dialogue and to join the Djibouti peace process, which continues to be the best option for lasting peace in Somalia.

Secondly, we strongly condemn all attempts to halt the current political momentum, destabilize the Transitional Federal Institutions and undermine the Djibouti peace process. We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and deplore the toll that

insurgent attacks have taken on both the civilian population and the already dire humanitarian situation in the country. Of particular concern to us was the extensive recruitment and training of children, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General. We echo the Secretary-General's call for the immediate cessation of such practices. Also, we urge all parties involved in the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian law and to respect human rights.

We also continue to be extremely concerned about reports of foreign interference with regard to insurgent attacks taking place in Somalia, as well as with the destabilizing potential of such actions for the whole region. We are therefore heartened by today's statement by Foreign Minister Omaar that, without foreign interference, the Transitional Federal Government would be able to ensure peace and security on the entire territory of Somalia.

As we have previously stated, we are ready to act in the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) on the basis of the reports presented by the Monitoring Group, whose work and findings we very much value and strongly support.

Thirdly, while appreciating the untiring efforts of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and its troop-contributing countries, we call for the strengthening of its capacities through fulfilment of troop-contributing pledges and bilateral aid, as well as through the Trust Fund for AMISOM. We also appreciate all efforts and initiatives aimed at improving the capacity of Somalia's security sector, in particular as an accountable and capable security and police force; this represents the backbone of achieving stability in the country.

Finally, we strongly support the work done thus far by all actors to tackle the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia. Croatia is pleased to be able to make its contribution to the anti-piracy efforts and to participate actively in the European Union naval operation, Operation Atalanta.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish at the outset to thank Mr. Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, for his briefing. We highly appreciate Mr. Ould Abdallah's unremitting efforts over the years in drawing the attention of the international community to the need to resolve the question of Somalia. We welcome the statement by African Union Commissioner Lamamra. We also welcome the presence among us of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia and thank him for his statement.

We are deeply concerned about the current grave situation in Somalia. To resolve the question of Somalia, it is imperative to quickly stabilize the security situation in that country. For that purpose it is crucial importance to ensure that the Somali security forces are sufficiently strong. We welcome the recent Mogadishu meeting of the Joint Security Committee. We support the further strengthening of the Somali security forces and appeal to members of the international community that are able to provide support to Somalia to do so within the framework of the relevant procedures regarding exemptions from the sanctions.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is playing a very important role in the Somali peace process. Some African countries have pledged reinforcements to AMISOM; we welcome such pledges and look forward to the prompt and full deployment of the Mission. The international community must honour its commitments as soon as possible and provide even greater support to AMISOM. We support United Nations efforts to continue to deploy the AMISOM support package and request the Secretariat to complete the contingency planning for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

We support the continuation of national reconciliation talks among all Somali parties, aimed at consolidating the Djibouti peace process.

We condemn recent attacks against the Transitional Federal Government, civilians and humanitarian aid agencies and urge all Somali parties to immediately renounce the use of force and resolve all problems by political means.

The question of Somalia has become a daunting challenge to the peace and security of the entire Horn of Africa region. We appeal to countries of the region to bring all their influence to bear in encouraging peaceful talks and securing early and substantial progress in the Somali national peace process.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Uganda.

I thank Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, and Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace

and Security of the African Union, for their briefings. I also welcome the participation in this meeting of the Foreign Minister of Somalia, Mr. Omaar.

Uganda commends the efforts made by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia to advance the political process in that country. We condemn attacks on the TFG, the civilian population and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by insurgent groups and foreign elements in an attempt to undermine the political process and reconciliation efforts. Any attempt to oust the TFG is totally unacceptable; it would have a serious impact on peace and stability within Somalia, in the region and beyond. We therefore call on all armed groups and all opposition elements to embrace the Djibouti agreement as the best way to advance the political process. We also call upon those, within and outside the region, who are supporting the insurgents and fuelling instability in Somalia to stop doing so.

We welcome the launch on 25 July of the Joint Security Committee, which is one of the institutions provided for in the Djibouti peace agreement. That is significant because, once operationalized, the Joint Security Committee will coordinate efforts in support of the Somali transitional security sector institutions and also facilitate the disbursement of pledges made to that effect during the Brussels conference.

We welcome the support extended to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and call upon the United Nations and other partners to continue their support to ensure that AMISOM can effectively implement its mandate. We also welcome the additional pledges of troops for AMISOM, which will further strengthen its capacity to carry out its mandate. In addition, we are encouraged that AMISOM has initiated the deployment of its police component following the arrival of its Police Commissioner in Mogadishu on 18 June this year.

In order to build upon the achievements registered so far, it is critical that, at this stage, the rest of the entities supporting AMISOM, including the civilian component, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and other agencies, relocate to Somalia. That would not only help to strengthen the Government, but also send a clear signal to all that the international community is fully supportive of the Transitional Federal Government and the people of Somalia.

Members will recall that, at its meeting held on 9 July this year, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/19) in which it took note of the decision of the African Union summit in Sirte urging the Council to impose sanctions against those providing support to groups engaged in undermining peace and reconciliation in Somalia and regional stability. Accordingly, the Council expressed its readiness to expeditiously consider what action to take against any party undermining the Djibouti peace process. Uganda will support action by the Council in that regard.

Finally, we thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, and his staff for the good work that they are doing to support the people of Somalia so that they can live in peace and security and rebuild their country.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6174

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6174th meeting

Thursday, 30 July 2009, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Somdah
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Shalgham
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Ms. Rice
	Viet Nam	Mr. Dang Hoang Giang

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Twenty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2009/344)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

09-43294 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Twenty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2009/344)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djédjé (Côte d'Ivoire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/390, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2009/344, which contains the twenty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Austria, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Russian Federation, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1880 (2009).

I now give the floor to the representative of France.

Mr. Ripert (France) (*spoke in French*): The French delegation had the honour and the responsibility of preparing the text of the resolution that has just been adopted by the Security Council. Over time, the Security Council has developed a largely unified view on resolving the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire, as my delegation noted here last week (see S/PV.6168) after the introduction of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/344). I am pleased to note that that unified view was formally reaffirmed today by the unanimous adoption of resolution 1880 (2009).

The Security Council is united in extending the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for six months, encouraging the force to do its utmost to support the organizing of a free, fair, open and transparent presidential election on the planned date, which is now its priority. Our Council is also united in reaffirming the certification role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, who should confirm each stage of the electoral process. Finally, above all, the Security Council is united in demanding that the Ivorian parties this time honour their commitments, and that the first round of the presidential elections indeed be held on 29 November, as they themselves decided last May.

I would like to develop that last element, which seems to us essential. In sending that message to the Ivorian parties, the Security Council by no means underestimates the difficulties inherent to the preparation of good elections, but it notes that it is up to the Ivorian parties and the main candidates themselves to find and to show the political will to remove the various obstacles. The presidential and legislative elections have indeed been postponed for too long. With delay after delay — from January to November 2008, then from November 2008 to November 2009 — the prospect for the elections has only become more distant.

The Security Council, in particular France from among the Council members, which deploys troops on

the ground in support of the United Nations and has provided significant direct and indirect aid to Côte d'Ivoire, has been quiet for too long. Those delays have consequences. They unjustly punish the Ivorian population by delaying an end to the crisis and by prolonging a state of instability that is dangerous to Côte d'Ivoire and the subregion. They also have a cause — the lack or insufficiency of political will — and are, unfortunately, once again sending us a warning signal. Contradictory signals, rumours and signs of tension are mounting.

France is convinced that, if they find the necessary political will, the Ivorian actors still have the ability to keep their commitments, with the support of the international community. In any case, they must know that they are held to their word by the Security Council and will be judged on their acts. In that spirit, in the coming weeks, the Council will closely follow, in particular, the publication of the provisional electoral list and the final electoral list and the support of the Facilitator and the representative of the Secretary-General.

The Council will not let itself be tricked by technical ploys. If the 29 November elections are to be delayed, the parties responsible will be clearly identified, and the Security Council will draw the necessary conclusions.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to the Facilitator, President Blaise Compaoré, for his determined action in favour of peace.

The Ouagadougou process has enabled Côte d'Ivoire to make significant progress. I should like to refer to two examples that are of particular importance. The first was the smooth dismantling of the zone of confidence, which had cut the country in two. The absence of armed incidents since the closing of the last UNOCI observation post, on 30 July 2008, attests to the ability of former enemies to live together. The second was the completion of the process to register more than 6.5 million voters, on 30 June. That constitutes a republican response to one of the root causes of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire that has lasted since 2002.

That progress is a cause for hope. However, it will be meaningless if Ivorian political actors once again squander an opportunity to emerge from the crisis. The Security Council will consider this issue on a regular basis. We have specifically asked the Secretary-General to inform us in early September on the publication of the provisional electoral list. The Ivorian people deserve for 29 November 2009 to be honoured. They can count on the Security Council, as well as on France, to demonstrate great support and vigilance.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6175

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6175th meeting

Thursday, 30 July 2009, 10.25 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Somdah
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Shalgham
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Ms. Rice
	Viet Nam	Mr. Dang Hoang Giang

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2009/297)

Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2009/352)

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09-43306 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2009/297)

Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2009/352)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/392, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Members of the Council also have before them two reports of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, which are contained in documents S/2009/297 and S/2009/352.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Austria, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Russian Federation, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1881 (2009).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

As I expect most members of the Council know, this could be the last time this month that Uganda presides over the deliberations of the Council. It is for me a bittersweet moment. It is a chance to thank all members for their support and cooperation. Together, we have accomplished what we could, but a lot more remains to be done. I also salute the staff of the Secretariat, many of whom work in the background, such as the interpreters and translators. They have done a lot of work and given us incredible support. I would also like to wish Ambassador Sir John Sawers and the delegation of the United Kingdom all the very best in the month of August.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.